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NEXT WEEK

IS OUR WINTER-ISSUE week.

THE NUMBER will be sympathetic with the new century, and

ENCLOSED in an illuminated cover of novel design.

THE CONTENTS will be good.

WHAT about the advertisements?

WELL, the publisher will book them

UP TO TUESDAY MORNING, January 22, first post.

IT MAKES a good beginning to the century

TO ADVERTISE effectively in the C. & D. Winter Issue.

OUR READERS are in every part of the world, especially in

THE BRITISH EMPIRE at home and abroad.

THEY BUY from advertisements.

ADVERTISERS, please note, first post on Tuesday, January 22, is the latest time for advertisements.

THE SUPPLEMENT will be kept open until Thursday, January 24, at 2 P.M., for exchange column, businesses for disposal and wanted, situations open and wanted, and similar small advertisements.

Summary.

THE head of the firm of Messrs. Wm. Ransom & Son figures in the Zoo this week (p. 86).

ANOTHER L.G.B. order to local authorities has been issued, and we print it in full (p. 74).

A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION of methylated-spirit vapour is reported from Manchester. It caused twelve deaths (p. 74).

TAR-DISTILLERS (page 74) and Inverness merchants want poisons to be sold by traders who are not chemists (page 79).

THE names of those who have passed the Irish Pharmaceutical Society's examinations this month are given on page 78.

THE NAMES of those who passed the Major and Minor pharmaceutical examinations in London this month are given on p. 97.

MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTS have discussed the patent-laws of the United Kingdom and compared them with others (p. 93).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATURAL COLOURS was the subject at the Society of Arts on Wednesday, when Dr. Joly got too little credit (p. 93).

MR. KENRIC B. MURRAY, Secretary to the London Chamber of Commerce, is taking active steps to get the Pharmacy Bill opposed (p. 88).

"XRAYSER" criticises the Pharmacy Act decision at Liverpool, and considers that the enforcement of imprisonment would be a blunder (p. 87).

LEMONADE which the Aberdeen analyst reported to contain lead has been found by the Government chemists to contain none, but a trace of copper (page 79).

THE ARTIFICIAL-VIOLET PATENTS have again been legally considered in Germany, where the highest Court has made an important ruling in regard to ionone (p. 90).

FURTHER FACTS in regard to the way dispensing is done at the Blackburn Workhouse have been elicited at an inquiry in the presence of a Local Government Board officer (p. 77).

BRITAIN'S import-business in 1900 was 38½ million pounds more than in 1899, and the exports about 27 millions better. We indicate in an editorial the directions of improvement (p. 89).

M. CHATIN, a venerable leader in French pharmacy, died on Sunday (page 80). We also record the deaths of Mr. Samuel Goss, a Barnstaple chemist, and Dr. Jacob, of Dublin (page 91).

ACONITE AND BELLADONNA LINIMENT was sent out in a mixture-bottle from a Sheffield doctor's dispensary. It was not labelled "Poison"; the patient took a draught of it and died (p. 76).

MR. JOHN R. ELLIS, of Leeds, the introducer of "Daisy" powders, was on Tuesday travelling by a goods lift from the top floor of the factory, when a pulley broke and the lift ran with great force to the bottom, killing Mr. Ellis instantly (p. 75).

PUT "medicines" in place of "poisons" is an alteration of the Pharmacy Bill suggested by the Grimsby Association (p. 94). Sheffield chemists approve of it generally, but want Clause 4 struck out, and North Staffordshire chemists support the Bill (p. 95).

PAPERS on "Spirit of Nitrous Ether and Glycerin of Boric Acid," by Mr. D. Gilmour; on "Suppository-making," by Mr. W. B. Cowie; and on "Liquid Extract of Cascara Sagrada," were read at a scientific meeting of the North British Branch on Wednesday forenoon. It was the first meeting of the kind, and a big success (p. 81).

ARSENICAL BEER has been discussed at Manchester by the S.C.I. (p. 93), more deaths from it are recorded (p. 75), the inquest which is gradually fixing the blame on arsenious vitriol has been continued (p. 90), a book about the matter has been published (p. 90), and a Royal Commission has been appointed to inquire into the whole matter (p. 90).

B—C

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

At Welshpool Police Court on January 8, Richard Lewis, Guilsfield, was fined 1s. and costs, for exposing for sale certain medicines liable to stamp-duty, which were unstamped.

A war curio, in the form of a 4-7 shell from Ladysmith, empty of course, is on exhibition in the windows of Mr. H. Ebbage, chemist, Hall Quay, Yarmouth, and has excited a good deal of interest.

At a meeting of the King's Lynn Town Council, last week, the contract for the supply of disinfectants to the Corporation for the year ensuing was given to Messrs. Allen & Neale, chemists, High Street.

Speaking at Bristol on Tuesday night, Sir William Church, M.D., said that the South African Hospital Commission report is finished and signed, and is now only awaiting the acceptance of the Queen to be made public.

The L.G.B. auditor has told the Strand Guardians that he intends to surcharge them for the cost (12s.) of a book on therapeutics, which was ordered by the medical officer for the dispensary library. The matter is to be threshed out at the next meeting.

At Buckingham Petty Sessions on January 15, George Kingerlee, chemist and druggist, Buckingham, was fined 1l., including costs, for selling baking-powder containing 3·2 per cent. of basic sulphate of alumina. The defendant admitted making the powder himself.

The arsenic scare caused the Health Committee of Rochdale Corporation to have samples of potash-water and soda-water analysed by Mr. Stenhouse, the Borough analyst. Three of the samples contained lead in injurious quantities, but none had even a trace of arsenic.

The Tar Distillers' Association on January 8 decided to support the Bill of the Traders in Poisons Association, with a few slight alterations, the resolution being moved by Mr. S. Boulton (Burt, Boulton & Haywood), and seconded by Mr. C. D. T. Bushell (Robinson Brothers, West Bromwich).

At Wymondham on January 12, Messrs. Gooch & Son sued a farmer named Wright, of Silfield, to recover the value of certain horse and cattle medicines supplied. The defendant said it was more than six years since he had received the medicine, and it had done no good, but judgment was given for the plaintiffs.

An errand-boy named Henry Charles Baggs (16), was charged at West Ham Police Court on January 12 with stealing 6l. 3s. from his employers, Parke's Drug-stores (Limited), of Forest Gate. Accused was sent to the bank with the money, but went for a trip to Southend instead. He was remanded.

The Dartford Bench on January 10 committed Edward Howard for trial on a charge of administering poison to horses belonging to his late employer. Nine horses, valued at 350l., died, and a witness stated that the accused showed him a blue powder, which he said was the stuff that would "do for" the horses.

At Clerkenwell on January 14, Sidney Walter Pearson, 21, was remanded on a charge of stealing from 82 Clerkenwell Road a dozen bottles of Seigel's syrup, a box of cough-lozenges, and a tube of boot-polish, value 12s., the property of Messrs. Butler & Crispe, druggists' sundriesmen, in whose employ he was as a warehouseman.

It is reported that the Local Government Board auditor, who has just completed an audit of the accounts of the Birkenhead Board of Guardians, has surcharged certain members of the Board for the 250l. expenses incurred in connection with the action for slander brought against Dr. Martin by Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., of Liverpool.

An illustrated lecture on "The Ova of Lepidoptera" was delivered by Mr. F. Noad Clark (President of the Public and Poor-law Dispensers' Association), at a meeting of the South London Entomological and Natural History Society on January 9. Dr. Fremlin, of the L.G.B., was nominated President of the Society for the ensuing year, and Mr. Clark Vice-President.

Amongst various charges heard before the Bristol Recorder against Henry Seymour on December 9, was one of stealing 29l. 11s. 10d. from Mr. J. D. D. Thomas, pharmaceutical chemist, Bristol. Mr. Thomas is also a sub-postmaster, and it was stated that prisoner stole the money from a safe in the shop while the assistant was getting him some soap. Seymour, who was found guilty, was eventually sentenced to three years' penal servitude.

Carbolic Acid a "Poison."

The following letter has been forwarded from the Local Government Board to sanitary authorities:—

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.,
January 10, 1901.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to enclose a copy of an Order made by the Lords of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council approving a resolution passed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain that liquid preparations of carbolic acid and its homologues containing more than 3 per cent. of those substances should, except in certain cases connected with agriculture and horticulture, be deemed poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and the second part of schedule A to that Act. The Board have reason to believe that, in a very large number of cases where local authorities disinfect or procure the disinfection of premises and things which have been exposed to infection, the disinfectant employed is carbolic acid. They desire to take this opportunity, therefore, of pointing out that, whenever the disinfectant employed is carbolic acid, or any other poison within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, only bottles similar to those prescribed by the regulations adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and approved by an Order of the Lords of the Council, dated January 31, 1899, should be used to contain it. A copy of the last-mentioned Order is also enclosed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. B. PROVIS, Secretary.

This is the matter that was referred to at last week's meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council. It will be observed that the Local Government Board recommend the use of poison-bottles for the acid.

Masonic.

The annual installation, in connection with the Lindsey Lodge of Freemasons, No. 712, took place on January 11, when Bro. F. W. Dennis, pharmaceutical chemist, was installed as Worshipful Master. Amongst the officers invested for the year were S.W., Bro. A. Bellamy; D.C., W. Bro. W. Griffin; and A.D.C., W. Bro. Mark Smith—all of whom are chemists. The annual festival of St. John's was held after the lodge at the Masons' Arms Hotel, where an excellent banquet was served.

Municipal Milk.

The supply of sterilised milk for infants by the Sanitary Department at Dukinfield has resulted during the first year in a financial loss of 149l., nor, it is said, have the results had the effect of reducing the infantile mortality, as four children out of the nine fed with the milk died during December. Dr. Booth, one of the promoters of the scheme, has resigned his seat on the Sterilised Milk Committee as a protest against the line of policy pursued. He alleges that the suggestion of himself and the medical officer (Dr. Park) for the proper and efficient control of the Sterilised Milk Department have been ridiculed and vetoed.

Fatal Explosion at Manchester.

On Monday, January 14, a serious explosion took place at the hat-works of Messrs. Joseph Wilson & Sons, Wilton Street, Denton, near Manchester, resulting in the death of thirteen persons, and nine men are lying in hospital in a more or less critical condition as the result of their injuries. The explosion occurred in the drying or proofing house. In this department the requisite stiffness is imparted to the hats by means of shellac dissolved in spirit, and the drying is conducted in suitable ovens lined with shelves on which the

Unfinished hats are placed till they are ready for shaping and smoothing. The ovens are heated by stoves fitted with hot-water pipes. The hats being wet, a considerable amount of vapour is given off. To recover this vapour the drying or proofing oven is connected with a condenser. It is conjectured that during the process of drying a superabundance of vapour was formed, and that a naked light by some means came into contact with it, thus causing the explosion. On the other hand, one of the officials of the firm is of opinion that the explosion took place within the stove, but how, he has no idea.

The inquest was opened at Denton on January 16, and, after formal evidence, was adjourned to January 30.

Arsenical Beer.

Several deaths have occurred during the week at the two Manchester workhouses attributable either directly or indirectly to arsenic in beer. In addition to the Manchester prosecutions against beer-dealers, two beer-sellers in Salford have been summoned, and a like number in the adjoining village of Swinton. Mr. J. W. Handley, chemist, has written to a Manchester paper pointing out that in Dr. Wynter Blyth's work on "Foods," published in 1878, it is stated that it is possible for arsenic to be found in beer, and the results of analyses of white, yellow, and black glucose, each of which contained arsenic, are given.

Analysts' Affairs.

Deptford Borough Council has fixed the minimum number of samples to be analysed by the public analyst (Mr. R. H. Harland) at 300 per year, with a fee of 10s. for each sample beyond 200 in addition to his salary.

At the meeting of the Stamford Town Council on January 8, an account for 32s. was received from the borough analyst for analysing twelve samples of water. One of the members asked whether the charge was correct, and it was stated that the proper fee was three guineas per sample, but the analyst had deducted 5s. from his account, which was thereupon passed.

Mr. E. H. Moore, pharmaceutical chemist, of Brighton, having, through ill-health, resigned his position as public analyst for the Sussex Borough of Arundel, the Town Council has decided not to appoint a successor unless compelled to do so by the Local Government Board. Samples will be analysed by the county analyst at the usual fee. A few years ago the Local Government Board peremptorily ordered the Town Council to appoint an analyst for the borough.

With regard to the proposed appointment of Dr. Clark, Principal of the Cornwall Central Technical Schools, as the analyst of Truro, the Corporation had received from Dr. B. Dyer, the present analyst, a letter expressing reluctance to resign, and suggesting that Dr. Clark be appointed joint-analyst with himself. Mr. J. Hearn moved that that be done, subject to the approval of the L.G.B. He took it Dr. Dyer would be content with an honorary position, allowing Dr. Clark to do the work and take the fees. Mr. J. Rogers remarked that Dr. Dyer would be more like a referee, who would be called upon if a second analyst was wanted. The motion was carried.

The incorporation of the London Vestries and the amalgamation of parishes has done away with a good many public appointments. Head officials have become subordinate, and others have been abolished from office altogether. Thus Mr. Stokes, F.I.C., the public analyst to the St. Luke's Vestry, loses office, and Mr. J. Kear Colwell, the public analyst of Clerkenwell, becomes the Finsbury borough analyst (because St. Luke's and Clerkenwell have been joined). Dr. Yarrow, the medical officer of St. Luke's, in like manner falls out in favour of Dr. Newman, who is medical officer of the borough. The deleted officials will have compensation for loss of office, Mr. Stokes taking 29s. 6s. 3d. per annum, and Dr. Yarrow 105s. per annum.

From Leeds and District.

There was an outbreak of fire at Taylor's Drug-stores, Carlton Hill, Leeds, on January 11, but little damage was done.

Messrs. Reinhardt & Sons' old premises in Briggate have been privately sold for a sum of 12,750s., or 38s. 8s. per yard. The property was offered at auction in December, and was withdrawn at 35s. per yard.

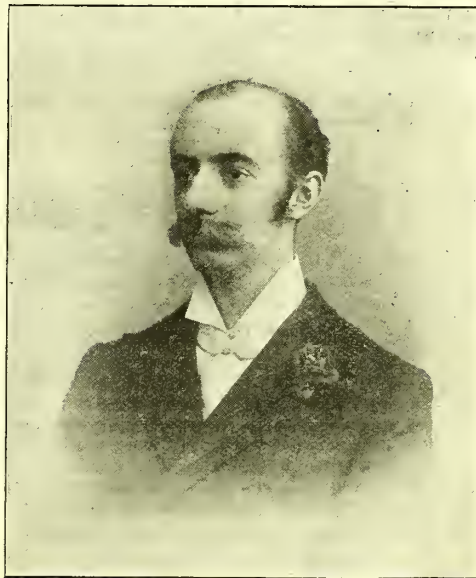
During the past fortnight the samples of weather distributed in this district—spring mugginess, fog, hail, snow, rain, frost—has made quite a run on the chemists for throat and lung remedies. Said one, "Seven-eighths of the prescribing and medicines required this last week or two have been for coughs and colds."

Mr. H. Crowther, curator of the Philosophical Hall, Leeds, gave a very interesting lecture in that institution a few days ago on "The Part Lime Plays in Nature." He showed how carbonic acid built up shells and skeletons of animals, coal-forests, and general vegetation. Sulphate of lime, he further showed, enabled the inhabitants of the ocean to build up coral islands, and he exhibited a tank in which a piece of limestone and shell treated with acid gave up a stream of carbonic-acid gas.

A representative of the *C. & D.*, upon making inquiries among chemists in Kirkstall and district, where an epidemic of ringworm broke out recently, found that mild citron ointment was used with pretty good results. If the treatment did not meet with success painting with collodion was tried, and this seldom failed. One chemist who treated a large number of children for the complaint stated that he always recommended the skin being thoroughly cleansed with coal-tar soap. He declared that the chemists were unable to trace the origin of the outbreak. Up to Wednesday of this week only three cases could be found to have been treated in the district, so that the expectations of a recrudescence in consequence of the children returning to school after the holidays had not been realised.

Fatal Accident to the Originator of "Daisy."

A shocking and fatal accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon at Marshall's Mills, Holbeck, Leeds, the factory belonging to Daisy (Limited), manufacturers of the well-known "Daisy" powders, the victim being Mr. John Robert Ellis, managing director of the company. Mr. Ellis was in the upper portion of the building and, wishing to return to



one of the lower rooms, stepped into the goods-lift, which is worked by a gas-engine from gearing at the top of the building. Mr. Ellis had entered the lift and was descending in it when suddenly a pulley forming part of the top gearing broke, and the lift, with Mr. Ellis inside it, fell to the bottom of the building. An employé of the firm saw Mr. Ellis enter the lift, and a few seconds after heard a crash, and, descending by the passenger-lift, he found Mr. Ellis a moment later lying unconscious in the goods-lift. He ran

for assistance, and Drs. Woodcock and Lockwood were soon on the spot, but on their arrival Mr. Ellis was already beyond their help. Meanwhile the ambulance had been sent for, and on its arrival the body, which was shockingly injured by the fall, was conveyed to the Infirmary, whence it was removed later to his home.

Mr. Ellis, who was only 29 years of age, lived at 244 Burley Road, Leeds. We had a call from him on December 28 last, and then made his acquaintance. In the course of conversation he told us that his father was a chemist and druggist, who died when he was 15 years old, and since that time Mr. Ellis had had to "fend for himself." He was apprenticed to the drug-trade, and he spoke to us of the kindness of his apprentice-master, whose name we cannot recall. It is six or seven years since Mr. Ellis (who had a retail shop in Leeds) introduced "Daisy" powders, and through the smartness of his advertising (which to the public was chiefly in the form of novel window-attractions) the article has become one of the most popular and widely-used proprietary medicines. "Whatever I have to say in my advertisements," remarked Mr. Ellis to us last month, "I say straight and in as few words as I can." As to the progress of his idea, he said that it has been recorded in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, his advertisements during the past five years showing in succession the three stages of growth before he took Marshall's Mills. Every one of these advertisements he wrote himself, and, as sometimes happens in life, he had not the appearance of the smart advertiser. In fact, the one thing that struck us most about him was his modesty. Apparently he had a keen eye to business, but it was the success of the venture rather than the profits which he thought of. We understand that he was a man of deepreligious feelings and an active evangelistic worker. Now that he is gone we may mention that he called upon us to have a talk about a fiscal matter which had been mentioned in the *C. & D.*, and which had some bearing upon the sale of "Daisy." On his return to Leeds we received the following letter from him:—

Leeds, January 1, 1901.

THE EDITOR, *C. & D.*

DEAR SIR,—Agreeably with my promise I enclose a cheque for the Benevolent Fund (10*l.*), which kindly send at your convenience.

In pressing me for the "reason" of Daisy's success, I think I ought to have mentioned I am a systematic giver, and can date the small amount of success I have enjoyed most largely from then.

With kindest regards to the publisher, and wishing you both a happy and prosperous new century,

I remain, yours respectfully,
JNO. R. ELLIS.

This letter is, we believe, a fair index to the man's character. He leaves a wife and family.

Our Birmingham Budget.

Sodium cacodylate has been much prescribed in this town, chiefly in the form of pill and after dilution "in capsula amylacea."

The death of Sir John Jaffray—the founder of the Jaffray Hospital and quondam proprietor of the *Post*—brings to the treasury of the local hospitals 4,150*l.*

Bertram Arthur Masters (21), described as a brewer's chemist, was fined 5*l.* and costs at King's Heath Police Court on January 11 for wilfully damaging a first-class compartment on the Midland Railway.

The danger of having bottles and syphons of soda-water in warm places was exemplified by a serious accident to a lady which took place at the Exchange Restaurant on Friday last. A bottle burst, and the glass lacerated the eye, and the patient had to be detained at the eye-hospital.

The Midland Institute *conversazione* takes place this week. It is at this annual gathering that scientific novelties are exhibited, and this year we are promised exhibits of the Marconi and Tesla systems of telegraphy, Röntgen rays, microphotography, and a grand array of microscopes and objects. It will be over on Friday night.

The medical columns of the weeklies are often interesting; as the prescriptions suggested are afterwards received to dispense. One of these for dandruff recommended liq. hydrarg. perchlor. 1 oz., aqua to 1 pint. To cause hair to grow rapidly—bay-rum, castor oil, of each 1½ oz., tincture

of cantharides 2 dr., eau de Cologne ½ oz. "Chelsea Pensioner" is recommended, and is said to be composed of sulphur, guaiac., rhubarb, mustard, nitre, and honey. For insomnia, pulvinas humuli of George III. days. Two curious drugs are introduced to readers—"ezcal" and "vinard"; what are they?

It was after business, and at the usual trysting-place, when the two male pharmacists were discussing the topics of the day. One said, "What do you supply for magnesia?" "Always the carbonate." "Oh! that will not do; if you look at your B.P. you will find that it is magnesia—magnesium oxide—and so says the F. and D. Inspector, and the public analyst, and the men of law." "True; but what do you sell for fluid magnesia?" "Oh, I sell the liquor magnesiæ." "Yes; and what does it contain? Carbonate of magnesia—*ergo*, I sell magnesium carbonate when asked for magnesia." "I see; that explains why we want lawyers."

At a meeting of the University Chemical Society on Monday Mr. Worth read a paper on "Chemistry as Applied to Photography." He traced the use of light for photographic purposes, and explained photochemical reduction and oxidation. Two hundred years ago it was known that silver chloride was affected by light, and in 1777 Scheele showed that chlorine is evolved at the same time. Proof of this can be obtained by a simple experiment. Silver chloride kept in water for some weeks changes colour, and the water is found to give a precipitate with silver nitrate. Ferric chloride retards and silver nitrate accelerates the action of light upon silver chloride. Of the many theories of the cause of this, four were alluded to, preference being given to the one in which Ag₂Cl₂ is formed. In modern plates silver bromide is most used. Gelatin dry-plates were introduced in 1871, and the cause of fogging referred to. Ripening by heat makes gelatin plates more sensitive. The collodion process and carbon-printing process were also explained. In the discussion Professor Frankland humorously told his experience of the photographic process of twenty-five years ago, when he placed his friends who came to be photographed in a most uncomfortable position, and left them there for half an hour, and on his return found them still in the same position. He asserted that people had then more patience than now. Mr. Walton, an old pupil of Mason College, fresh from China, told the meeting how sulphuretted hydrogen spoils plates; there is a lot of the gas in Chinese cities, and he had got nearly all his plates and photographs spoiled.

The Doctor Protests.

The Medical Officer to Beverley Workhouse objects to his orders for drugs passing through the hands of the Master or other irresponsible person. He asserts that in the past his drug-orders have been tampered with in a dangerous manner, and desires that no one but himself should have access to the drug-closet. He also points out that it has been the practice of the Workhouse Master to remove the contents of parcels received from the chemist, and place them in the stock-bottles. At a meeting of the Board, at which the doctor's communication was considered, the Clerk pointed out that the Master was responsible for everything in the House by direct order of the Board. Mr. Whitehead (one of the members) thereupon said, "If so, then it is time we appointed a qualified chemist and druggist as Master." The Master stated that he handed all the drugs received to the doctor, and the matter was eventually referred to a committee.

Doctors' Dispensing.

At an inquest held at Sheffield on January 15, on the body of Mr. Thomas Hallam, it was stated that deceased had swallowed a quantity of liniment in mistake for medicine. The evidence went to show that deceased, who had been under treatment by Dr. Kite for a few months, was told by the doctor that he would prescribe for him a bottle of medicine and a liniment. A messenger was sent for the mixture, but apparently the liniment was given in mistake, and thinking it was the mixture, Mr. Hallam, without looking at the label, drank about 1½ oz. of the liquid, which was a mixture of aconite and belladonna liniments. It had been sent out in an ordinary 4-oz. medicine-bottle, and bore no poison-label. As soon as the mistake was discovered emetics were administered and two doctors were called in,

but deceased died of syncope. In the course of his examination by the Coroner, Dr. Kite said that he left all the dispensing of prescriptions to his assistant (Mr. Townley) and the dispenser, and there was no way of finding out whether the dispenser had made up the prescription or not except through complaints from his patients. Asked if he did not think it was a very dangerous system to dispense poisonous liniments in an exactly similar bottle to that in which mixtures for internal use were sent out, he admitted that it was, but one reason for it happening on that occasion was because he had no smaller bottle. He usually made it his practice to send a liniment out in smaller bottles. He had ordered "poison" to be put on this particular bottle, and could not say why that had not been done.

Joseph Swinbourne Townley, Dr. Kite's assistant, said that most of his time was spent in dispensing and superintending the work of the dispenser in Dr. Kite's laboratory. Asked why, knowing that there were two powerful poisons in the bottle, he had not put a "Poison" label on, Mr. Townley said he thought the label which he used was sufficient. He had only had four months' experience with Dr. Kite, and the liniment-labels which he had used previous to going there had had "Poison" on them. The Coroner asked if he were in the habit of dispensing poisonous liniments in bottles of the shape and size produced, and he said in reply, "Not of that size, but bottles of that shape," and he did not generally find that there was a specially-shaped bottle for poisons, nor did he take the slightest trouble to ascertain whether there was liniment or medicine in the wrapper before he gave it to the messenger. The average number of bottles of medicine which he made up per day was from eighty to a hundred. The jury returned a verdict of death from syncope arising from taking a poisonous liniment in mistake for medicine for internal use, and were of opinion that all bottles containing poison dispensed by medical practitioners or chemists should have a distinctive shape and be labelled on both sides.

Workhouse Dispensing.

A special meeting of the Blackburn Board of Guardians was held on January 10 to consider the statements made by Mr. J. J. Riley, one of the Guardians, with regard to the death-rate at the workhouse, the cost of drugs, &c., and the advisability of appointing a resident medical officer (see *C. & D.*, December 1, 1900, page 868). Mr. Jenner-Fust, Local Government Board Inspector, attended the meeting. Mr. Riley's statements were summarised by the Clerk, who had also prepared elaborate tables showing (1) the average number of deaths of the inmates in nineteen workhouses during the past year, Blackburn included; (2) analysis of the causes of deaths at the Blackburn Union Workhouse Infirmary during the year ended October 5, 1900; (3) number of patients and number of deaths in the infirmary; and (4) ages of paupers dying in the workhouse during the same period. Dr. Pollard, the medical officer, in the course of his report compared Blackburn favourably with the chief hospitals in the country. The increased cost of drugs, he said, had been caused by an increase in the number of patients treated in the infirmary, and was also owing to the improved condition of the infirmary, by which there was a greater influx of acute cases requiring more active medicinal treatment. A treatment for epilepsy which he adopted a year or two ago had materially increased the cost of drugs. The use of antiseptics had also greatly increased. He denied that the increase in the cost of drugs was caused by waste or misuse. The dispensing had been done by himself and some of the nurses under his supervision. It was stated that a certain person, not even a probationer nurse, had dispensed medicines. The person referred to had never at any time dispensed any medicines. She had charge of the key of the surgery chiefly because her room was near it, and so that she could be present while the rooms were being cleaned. One day he found that the inmates were in the surgery cleaning it, and that she was not present, so he transferred the key to the superintendent nurse. Dr. Pollard then dealt with the charge of abnormal mortality at the workhouse, giving statistics which he had prepared up to date. In the discussion which followed, Mr. D. Yates (chemist) said they ought to appoint a qualified dispenser at the workhouse. It was most improper that medicines should be dispensed by an unqualified person. Mrs. Bury, one of

the Guardians, thought the shadiest part of the doctor's report was that relating to the dispensing. She did not understand the statement that the probationers dispensed the medicines under the doctor's supervision. Did he mean that he was always there when medicines were being dispensed, or did the nurses dispense from instructions he had given them? Dr. Pollard said there were stock mixtures which were not dangerous, and he saw no harm in asking a nurse to dispense those. The medicine was prepared by him, and he attended the workhouse daily, except Sundays, but he could not say how much of the two-hours-per-day attendance at the workhouse he devoted to dispensing.

With regard to the doctor's statement about the lady dispensing who was not even a probationer, Mr. Riley asked the doctor to be more explicit. He was told that the person in question gave out a very considerable amount of ointment and medicine, and went to the bottles, &c., in the surgery very frequently up to within twelve months ago.

Dr. Pollard said if Mr. Riley meant that the particular persons dispensed medicine he denied it. But if Mr. Riley meant that he (Dr. Pollard) made up medicine and handed it to the person to give to the patients, he might have done this.

Mr. Ashton said he had been up at the workhouse when the person referred to had given the old people doses of cough-medicine.

Mr. Jenner-Fust (to the doctor): You mentioned that at a certain time a transfer was made of the key of the surgery. Will you kindly tell us when that transfer took place? Was it a year ago or a few months since?

To this the Superintendent Nurse, who was present, replied that the transference took place about eight months ago.

Mr. Yates reiterated his previous contention that it was most improper that medicines should be dispensed irregularly in any institution such as the Blackburn Workhouse. It was absolutely necessary that medicine should be dispensed by qualified persons, and it was impossible for the medical officer to always be present to superintend the dispensing. An unqualified person might easily make a most serious mistake by reaching from the shelf on which the medicines were stored a deadly tincture instead of a simple one stored beside it. It was impossible for the doctor to superintend all the dispensing at the workhouse.

Mr. Ward thought if the doctor's attendance at the workhouse only averaged two hours a day, a dispenser ought to be appointed. He (Mr. Ward) maintained that the necessary attention was not given to each patient, and therefore Mr. Yates's suggestion was worthy of consideration.

Mr. Riley, in the course of a long statement, asked how, supposing the 198 inmates of the infirmary wanted a bottle of medicine every other day, it was possible for the doctor alone to handle and fill the whole of the bottles or make up the powders in the two hours a day he attended? Mr. Riley substantiated all the statements he had previously made, maintained that the death-rate was much too high, and moved that a resident medical officer be appointed for the workhouse. Mr. Ward seconded, but the motion was lost by twenty-one votes to seven.

Conference of Science-teachers.

A conference of science-teachers promoted by the Technical Education Board of the London County Council was opened at the South-Western Polytechnic, Chelsea, on Thursday, January 10, under the presidency of Mr. T. A. Organ, and lasted two days. There was a very good attendance of science-teachers, as may be judged by the fact that papers by the following were read:—Mr. W. Hibbert, Regent Street Polytechnic, on "Instrument-making for Schools and Technical Classes"; Mr. T. P. Nunn, William Ellis School, Gospel Oak, and Mr. A. G. Hubbard, Raine's School, on "The Coordination of Workshop and Laboratory Instruction"; Mr. J. B. Coleman, Mr. A. Schwartz, and Mr. W. W. F. Pullen on "The Fitting-up of Chemical, Physical, and Mechanical Laboratories"; Miss Edith Aitken, North London Collegiate School for Girls, on "Science-teaching in Girls' Schools"; Professor H. E. Armstrong, F.R.S., on "The Teaching of Domestic Science"; Professor E. Barnes, London, on "Nature-teaching for Young Children"; and Professor Lloyd Morgan, F.R.S., University College, Bristol, on "Psychology and Science-teaching." Amongst those who

took part in the discussions were Dr. Gladstone, Dr. Clay (Wandsworth), Sir W. Abney, Professor Armstrong, Mr. Wells (Battersea), Professor Tilden, Miss Cooper (Oxford), Mr. T. G. Rooper, Inspector of Schools, and Sir Henry Roscoe. The conference was a decided success, and will be repeated next year.

Poisonings of the Week.

The fatalities from poison during the past week are characterised by the recrudescence of carbolic acid as a suicidal medium. From the reports received it is apparent that carbolic was used in five out of the fifteen fatal cases. The other scheduled poisons were oxalic acid, arsenic, chlorodyne, belladonna, and aconite liniment (noted elsewhere), and laudanum. The unscheduled poisons were salt of sorrel, aqua fortis, and hydrochloric acid (in two cases). The last, which promises to be the successor to carbolic acid in popularity, was used by a Maldon carpenter named Webb, who, tired of domestic differences, purchased two-pennyworth of spirit of salt and drank it. At the inquest on January 7 the police stated that they had inquired at all the chemists' shops in the town, but had failed to discover where the poison was purchased. In explanation the Coroner (Mr. John Harrison) informed the jury that hydrochloric acid did not require to be signed for in the chemists' poisons-book, as it was not a scheduled poison. Another man, named John Kirwin, a Manchester book-keeper, collected fifteen pennyworths of laudanum, and took the lot. That fact he communicated to his medical attendant during a period of temporary revival from the effects of the poison. All the poison-labels which had been on the bottles were destroyed before taking the laudanum.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personal.

Mr. James Baxter, L.P.S.I., Coleraine, has been put forward as a member of the District Council of that town.

Pharmacy-class Forming.

The County Borough of Belfast have approved of the formation of a class in pharmacy at the Working Men's Institute in that city.

Business Change.

Mr. P. Liston, L.P.S.I., late of Dublin, has purchased the Medical Hall at 108 George Street, Limerick, and will carry on business there in future.

Analyst's Complaint.

Mr. J. F. W. Hodges, F.I.C., analyst to the Armagh County Council, has written to the Board complaining that he has scarcely received any samples of late for analysis, and that as his remuneration has fallen off in proportion he wishes to know the amount of his retiring allowance on twenty-two years' service, and at a salary of 5*l.* a year.

Poison Confession.

James Phelan was charged on January 11 at Reading, on his own confession, with causing the death of Mary Curly, at Kinnitty, King's County, by poisoning her with arsenic in May, 1885. In the statement supplied by the prisoner to the police the poison is said to have been obtained from a chemist named Golding, Cumberland Square, Birr. The Birr police have investigated the matter, and it appears to be all imagination.

Milk-preservative.

At Limerick Quarter Sessions last week a farmer sued the proprietor of the Bulgarden Creamery for damages for having sold him impure milk, which is alleged to have poisoned three calves. From the evidence it seems the plaintiff helped himself to the milk and took some which was mainly solution of milk-preservative, the proper quantity of milk not having been added to it. The case was dismissed as impudent.

Apothecary's Salary Increased.

On the motion of one of the Committee of Management, Mr. D. J. McGrath, apothecary to the Carlow Asylum, has had his salary increased from 30*l.* to 45*l.* per annum. The mover of the resolution stated that for the last fourteen years Mr. McGrath had faithfully discharged his duties without a single complaint against him, and these duties had now considerably increased owing to the larger number of patients. Dr. O'Meara also spoke in a complimentary manner of the way in which Mr. McGrath had carried out his duties.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

The following are the results of the recent examinations:—

Pharmaceutical Licence.—R. E. Levis, J. H. Bowden, S. B. Lester, T. Lynch, J. A. McQuillan, J. D. Hackett, J. J. Kinsella, and T. A. Long passed. Five candidates were rejected.

Registered Druggist.—C. E. Churchill, J. Gray, T. Kennedy, J. W. McMurray, A. L. Proctor, H. Smith passed. Four candidates were rejected.

Pharmaceutical Assistant.—G. W. J. Hawthorne passed.

Preliminary.—G. R. Calvert, W. McMullan, J. Ritchie, F. S. Woodhouse, R. Mellon, P. MacCabe, J. B. Graham, J. V. Kerr, D. J. Barrett, E. J. Hendley, J. Warnock, T. Lennon passed. Thirteen candidates were rejected.

An Analyst's Mistake.

At the last meeting of the Boyle Board of Guardians the following letter was read from Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Dublin, medicine-contractors to the Union, on the subject of a complaint by the analyst, Sir Chas. Cameron, Dublin:—"Dear Sir,—Referring to your memorandum of December 18 giving us a copy of Sir Chas. Cameron's analyses of samples of medicines submitted to him from Ballinameen and Ballyfarnon Dispensaries, we have seen Sir Chas. Cameron in reference to our compound tincture of gentian supplied to Ballyfarnon Dispensary. He authorises us to say that a mistake has been made in drawing up the report, and that the tincture in question is undoubtedly up to the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia. If making any report to the Local Government Board we shall be glad if you will kindly mention this fact." The Clerk said that a copy of the letter would go to the Local Government Board. The Chairman: It would appear that Sir Chas. Cameron can make mistakes as well as other people.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

The Fire-raising Charge.

Frank Roberts, the young man described as a chemist who is charged with fire-raising in Cupar-Fife (see *C. & D.*, January 5, page 7) has been liberated on a bail of 200*l.* He will be tried before the Sheriff and a jury.

Royal Traders.

In the "list of tradesmen who hold warrants of appointment from the Lord Chamberlain, with authority to use the Royal Arms," recently published in the *London Gazette*, appear the names of Duncan, Flockhart & Co., Edinburgh; Frazer & Green, Glasgow; and Davidson & Kay, Aberdeen.

Chemical-works Accidents.

A young woman named Agnes Stirling was suffocated in a fire on January 11, at the chemical-works of Messrs. R. Hunter & Co., Glasgow.

A girl named McKenzie, whose father is a foreman at Messrs. Walker & Co.'s chemical-works, Ayr, while going through the works on January 10 accidentally stumbled into a pit of boiling pitch, and was so severely burned that she died in the County Hospital.

A Chemist's Son Honoured.

The Municipality of Dumharton on January 7 conferred the freedom of the burgh upon Major Babbie, R.A.M.C., son of Mr. John Babbie, pharmaceutical chemist, Dumharton, who won the Victoria Cross at Colenso for, among other deeds, his endeavour to save the life of Lieutenant Roberts. The document was enclosed in a silver casket.

Personal.

All persons having claims against the late Mr. David Dickson, formerly chemist at Tranent, and latterly residing at 11 Kirk Street, Leith, are requested to lodge same with Mr. J. F. Mackay, 29 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, by January 23.

The executors of the estate of the late Mr. Thomas Welsh, chemist and druggist, Liberton Mains, Midlothian, have presented a petition to the Sheriff of the Lothians and Peebles craving that the caution to be found by them as executors *dativo qua* may be restricted to the sum of 100*l*. Any objections must be lodged with the Clerk to the Commissariat of Edinburgh by January 19.

Analytical Differences.

A complaint at the instance of the City Sanitary Inspector was heard at Aberdeen on January 11, against George Sangster, for having sold three bottles of lemonade which, according to the City Analyst's certificate, contained 0.2 gr. per gal. of lead. The case was before the Court on a previous occasion, when a Somerset House analysis was ordered. The prosecution now said that the report had been received and showed that the Government analysts had found no trace of lead, but had found minute traces of copper, and it was proposed to withdraw the case. Mr. Sellar, solicitor for the defence, said this was by no means the first case that had been brought against aerated-water manufacturers in Aberdeen on the analyses of the City Analyst, which had, after inquiry, been withdrawn. He spoke of the damaging effect which such a prosecution had upon the business of his client, and stated that it was the second time a like complaint had been brought against Mr. Sangster and withdrawn in the same way. Sheriff Robertson said all he could do was to consider a motion for expenses. It was so serious a charge that it should not be made unless the authorities bringing it had a good case. Mr. Sellar said that under the statute he could not ask the prosecutor to relieve the accused of the expenses he had been put to, but he asked whether the expenses incurred by referring the matter to Somerset House should not be paid by him, and it was stated that this had been done. As a sequel Mr. Sellar has intimated an action of damages for 1,000*l*. against the City Analyst, on the ground that the proceedings have seriously injured his business.

The Sale of Poisons.

At a meeting of the Inverness Chamber of Commerce on January 10, Mr. D. Murray, agricultural merchant, moved that "the Chamber petition Parliament in favour of the proposed Bill to alter and amend the law relating to the sale of poisons and poisonous compounds used for agricultural and trade purposes." In the course of his speech Mr. Murray said matters had been pressed to that point by the activity of the Pharmaceutical Society, which in several instances had been successful in obtaining convictions against men who had simply sold to farmers and others goods of which they were not vendors (*sic*!). After quoting the opinion of an eminent judge on the question, Mr. Murray pointed out that if the law were pressed to its utmost limit, it would mean that compounds containing arsenic, for instance, could only be sold by a qualified chemist. The opinion of the Lord-Advocate—Mr. Graham Murray, Q.C.—was that where poisonous substances were to be dealt with in the way of being dispensed pharmaceutically, it was quite right that the retailing should be done by properly qualified persons. With regard to sheep-dips, insecticides, weed-killers, &c., poisons which might be dispensed and were supplied by the manufacturer in the final form in which they were to be applied, the Lord-Advocate did not think that any trade or profession should have a monopoly of selling for profit, if proper precautions be taken that such goods would not be applied and

used for any other purpose than that for which they were made. Mr. Murray concluded his speech by explaining the purpose of the proposed Bill and urging its support. The motion was seconded by Mr. J. A. Gossip, of Howden & Co., nurserymen, and, after further discussion, was unanimously adopted.

Photographic Exhibition.

The third international exhibition of the Blairgowrie and District Photographic Association was held from January 14 to 19. Amongst the exhibitors in Class B (open architecture, exterior and interior) were Mr. J. Cumming, chemist, Alloa, with a fine print of the interior of St. John's Church, Alloa, and Mr. J. D. Petrie, chemist, Blairgowrie, who exhibited a bromide enlargement of Hampton Court. In Class C (instantaneous work) the diploma was taken by Dr. Boon, Allasio, Italy, for a small print, "Beach Study." In landscapes and seascapes there was an abundance of good work. Mr. Alex. Scott, chemist, Callander, exhibited the two largest pictures in the exhibition. Both are handsome enlargements of Ben Ledi—(1) in summer and (2) in winter. Dr. Jos. McGowan exhibited two prints in the Amateur Class—"On the Sands, Scheveningen," and "De Coolvest, Rotterdam" (a study of a canal with shipping). Dr. Boon was awarded the bronze medal in this class for "A Study of Shipping"—a very small print. In Class M (amateur figure-studies or *genre*) Mr. J. Cumming, Alloa, exhibited three prints—(1) "A Quiet Tune," a sweet little picture portraying a small boy playing a tin whistle; (2) "Dorothy," a child study; and (3) "Tommy," a sturdy little fellow in shirt and braces. In the Members' Class Mr. J. D. Petrie exhibited seven frames, all enlargements. Over four hundred pictures were sent in for exhibition, the judges being Mr. Craig Annan, of Glasgow, and Mr. W. Crooke, of Edinburgh.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

A PRIME MINISTER ON DISTEMPER.—The following may be of interest to pharmacists who are concerned with dogs or have a veterinary practice. M. Couteaux, a Senator of the French Parliament and an enthusiastic dog-fancier, was discoursing on his favourite theme a few days ago to a group of his colleagues at the Senate, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, the Prime Minister, being amongst the number. M. Couteaux spoke of the fear he had of losing a particularly promising nine-months-old pup by distemper. Then spoke the Prime Minister of France: "I can promise you the dog will be all right if you use my remedy. It is not complicated," continued the Minister, "merely have your dog vaccinated with lymph, such as is used for infants. At five months old is the best time for the operation, but nine months is not too late. Have the lymph applied on the inside of the thigh, where there is no hair. I have tried the process for ten years and never lost a dog."

A NEW ENGLISH PHARMACY FOR PARIS.—There is a likelihood of a new English pharmacy being opened in Paris next spring. The locality chosen will probably be a little west of the Grand Opera House. The prospective proprietor is an English pharmacist who has recently secured his French diploma as *pharmacien*. He has been well known for a good many years as an assistant in a leading Anglo-American pharmacy here. The opening of a new pharmacy in Paris under English proprietorship will be quite an event, and will not fail to rouse a good deal of interest. It is one of the results of the stringent regulations as regards granting the *pharmacien's* diploma to foreigners which is being applied with full force for all students now commencing their studies at the French schools of pharmacy. It was only natural that all those English pharmacists who had any chance of getting the French diploma and thought of settling in this country should make the effort to do so while there was yet time under the old less severe conditions.

A MILK-SCARE.—Dr. Henri de Rothschild gave a lecture on milk, which he has made a speciality, at a public meeting held at the Pasteur Institute last week. His audience was much interested, and rather startled by some of the facts

and figures given. Dr. de Rothschild's researches have led him to conclude that unless previously boiled but little of the milk that comes into Paris is fit to drink. It appears that Paris consumes 600,000 litres of milk per diem, of which 25,000 litres only may be counted as perfectly safe, for, according to Dr. de Rothschild, manipulation with preservative chemicals or dilution spoils the rest, not to speak of contamination in other ways. Parisian milk-dealers have had something to say on the other side, and they protest that the eminent specialist bases his figures on a standard of purity that is too high. The French public have, however, a source of guarantee as regards the quality of their milk, for a good many pharmacists, and especially in provincial towns, make a practice of selling milk in sealed bottles, on which the name of the farm from where it is obtained is printed. This is, of course, of great value, especially in case of milk required for children.

DEATH OF M. CHATIN.—At the ripe age of 88 M. Gaspard Adolphe Chatin, a well-known pharmacist, died on Sunday, January 13, after a long illness, at his home at Essarts le Roi, in the vicinity of the picturesque Chevreuse Valley, between Versailles and Rambouillet. To pharmacists M. Chatin was best known as an eminent botanist and as an ex-director of the Paris School of Pharmacy, which important post he held for twelve years (1874 to 1883), being succeeded by the late Professor Planchon, who was also a botanist. This is also the speciality of the present director of the School, M. Guignard, so that it would appear to have almost become a tradition that a botanist should preside over the destinies of the important establishment in the Avenue de l'Observatoire. M. Chatin was born at Dullins, in the Dauphiné district, in 1813. He studied pharmacy and medicine in Paris, where he secured both his diplomas, but elected to follow pharmacy as a profession. He was hospital-pharmacist at the Beaujon and Hotel Dieu Hospitals, Paris, he afterwards became Professor of Botany at the School of Pharmacy here, and was nominated director of the school at 61 years of age. When he retired in 1888 he was named an honorary professor. Such is, briefly, M. Chatin's career in pharmacy. On the other hand he was a member of both the Academies of Sciences and Medicine. He was "father" of the latter body both as regards age and date of election, having been a member since 1853. He joined the Academy of Sciences in 1874, and was its President in 1896, being then, of course, 83 years old. As the senior of the scientific journalists in France he was Honorary President of their Association. His first article was contributed more than sixty years ago to the *Opinion*, now defunct. M. Chatin was a somewhat prolific writer, and undoubtedly aided in enriching the literature of botany. "The Existence of Iodine in Fresh-water Plants, Water and Air," "The Comparative Anatomy of Vegetables," "Study on Vegetable Physiology," were from his pen. He also made numerous contributions to scientific publications, for the most part on subjects pertaining to botany. M. Chatin carried his age well, and to within a comparatively recent date—that is, until overtaken by his fatal illness—was a typical hale and hearty septuagenarian. He was, besides, a popular personality amongst his colleagues at the Academies and other friends.

Colonial and Foreign News.

A MEMEL APOTHEKER has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment and fined 1,900m. for making up nineteen prescriptions for a quack doctor.

DOCTOR RUDOLF BENDER, of Coblenz, has celebrated his jubilee as apotheker. His pharmacy has been in the possession of his family for over two hundred years.

FIRE.—The Union chemical manufactory at Memel has been burnt to the ground. Twelve buildings were demolished, and some 300 workmen thrown out of work. The damage is estimated at 600,000m.

OPIMUM IN INDIA.—The opium-revenue in Bengal, to the end of December, shows an excess of 5,553,845r. over estimates, and to the end of November in Bombay an excess of 432,250r.—nearly ten lakhs of rupees to the good in spite of the unsettled state of China.

TIRED OF IT.—During the past year four German pharmacists and two apprentices committed suicide. The number has been the same since 1898, and is at the rate of 5.45 per million, nearly three times the average of suicides in Germany, which is 2.1 per million.

MESSRS. W. R. WARNER & Co., of Philadelphia, have obtained an injunction against the Searle & Hereth Co., of Chicago, for infringement of their trade-mark "Pancreo-pepsine," the term "Pancro-pepsine," which had been used by the defendant company, being considered an infringement.

'WARE IMITATORS.—A recent article in the *Venezuela Herald* points out the necessity for English and American manufacturers to lodge their trade-marks and to imitate more closely the methods of the French and German houses in seeing that they are protected against frauds. The articles especially falsified include drinkables, perfumery, and soaps.

A PHOSPHATE COMBINATION.—A movement is on foot in Florida to amalgamate the phosphate-producers of that State, and at least twelve important concerns out of fifteen engaged in the business are likely to be combined. The industry has reached a high stage of development in Florida, the figures showing that in 1899 776,000 tons of phosphate was shipped from that State.

NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS DECISIONS.—The following list of decisions has been issued by the Customs authorities in regard to import duties:—

Bottles, infants' feeding; as druggists' sundries ...	15 per cent.
Manganese borate and resins; as articles and materials suited only for, and to be used solely in, the fabrication of goods in the colony ...	ad val.
Manganese oxide; as chemicals not otherwise enumerated in the tariff ...	Free
Nucoline (nucoa butter); as articles not otherwise enumerated in the tariff ...	15 per cent.
Oil of mirbane as articles and materials suited only for, and to be used solely in, the fabrication of goods in the colony ...	ad val.
Terpineol (artificial oil of violets); as articles and materials suited only for, and to be used solely in, the fabrication of goods in the colony ...	Free
Vermine-killer, Battle's; as insecticide ...	Free

SOUTH FORMOSAN TRADE.—A British Consular report on the trade of Tainan (South Formosa) for 1899 was issued last week containing information about the Japanese camphor monopoly which is now an oft-told tale. Some interesting information is also given about the Japanese opium monopoly, which was established in 1897, when the Government erected an opium-factory in North Formosa. Up to that year the import of opium, so far as the open ports of the Consular district were concerned, was altogether in the hands of foreign (British and German) merchants, and formed one of the largest sources of revenue. Since then the import of opium into the southern open ports has been strictly prohibited, and has been confined to the northern ports only, and the import for the whole island has been placed in the hands of an outside foreign firm. Beyond receiving a fair price for the surplus stocks on hand at the time of the establishment of the monopoly, the foreign merchants have not participated in any of the profits on the import or sale of the drug since 1897. The total opium monopoly receipts for the year 1900 are estimated at 3,954,652 yen, and the expenditure at 2,931,126 yen, showing an estimated revenue to the Government-General of over 1,000,000 yen. This estimate will probably be exceeded, as the opium returns for the financial year from April 1, 1899, to March 31, 1900, show opium receipts at 4,219,605 yen, and a net profit of over 1,160,000 yen, and the number of licensed opium-smokers is on the increase. The number of licensed opium-smokers in the Tainan district at the end of 1899 was 55,112, or 5.67 per cent. of the population, being an increase of 20,000 over the previous year. In Tainan city the percentage of licensed and secret smokers is stated to be 22.25, a proportion which would about equal the total number of male adults in the city. There are no trustworthy statistics on this point, but the habit would appear to be spreading. One of the reasons given for the larger number of licensed smokers, as compared with previous years, is that many confirmed smokers who have hitherto smoked in secret are now compelled by the stricter surveillance over smokers and muggling to take out a licence and smoke official opium.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

A SCIENTIFIC meeting in the forenoon was tried at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, Mr. Peter Boa in the chair. It was on the suggestion of Mr. David Gilmour, Dunfermline, and he came forward with two papers. The meeting was most satisfactory. There was a large attendance of members from Edinburgh and the country, including one lady member, and of students, including two ladies. The first paper read was on

GLYCERIN OF BORIC ACID.

By David Gilmour.

The speaker thought there could be no dispute as to the wisdom of retaining *glycerinum acidi borici* in the Pharmacopœia, but there might be diversity of opinion as to the advisability of retaining it with the present process for its preparation and result. He contended the process was objectionable because it was tedious and unnecessary, it was inelegant to dispense, and from its viscosity it failed in its purpose as an application. The aim of the somewhat tedious B.P. process was that by heating first glycerin to a temperature not exceeding 302° F., then gradually adding the boric acid and continuing heat till the total weight was reduced from 15 oz. to 10 oz., water and excess of glycerin were driven off, and they had left not a concentrated solution merely of boric acid in glycerin, but a closer chemical union of glyceryl borate, which was ultimately made up to a total weight of 20 oz. with glycerin. If the preparation was a constant or stable one under all conditions, or if the superiority of glyceryl borate was proved over that of glycerin and boric acid, and if it was of a suitable consistency for a throat-paint, he would have no more to say. But the question was open at all points. Apart from his own opinion in the matter he had been in communication with medical men and others who from practical experience had not been able to appreciate the difference or distinguish superior therapeutic effects in the glyceryl-borate preparation. Moreover, the samples he put before them, varying considerably in consistency and obtained from different houses for comparison, made it apparent that the hygroscopic nature of the glycerin tended to make the product, when finished, a somewhat unsatisfactory one. It was well known also that in the presence of water glyceryl borate splits up into its original constituents, and was this not the result when contact with the moisture in the throat took place? With regard to the second point, the inelegance of the preparation to dispense, he thought there could be no difference of opinion. As a process it seemed to him either to be carried too far or not far enough. It was more than half-way between a liquid and a solid, while neither the one nor the other. It had no relation in its appearance nor physical qualities to Barff's boro-glyc ride, which was apparently aimed at. The third point, that from its viscosity it failed in its purpose as a successful throat-application was an objection he had practically experienced. He had had frequent occasion to use glyceryl borate prepared carefully by himself. He found either that instead of brushing equally and nicely over an inflamed surface, whereby the paint was absorbed, the moisture of the throat in this instance coming into contact with the viscous mass practically put a skin upon it, and the brush came out not unlike a flattened glycerin pastille, and the medicament never had a chance; or second, if he succeeded in getting a portion on to the brush the pastille might come off, and was hastily got rid of by the patient. He thought the therapeutic value of boric acid as free acid was so generally recognised that a simple solution in glycerin of the strength of 1 to 4 would make a satisfactory throat-application. If, on the other hand, glyceryl borate was proved to have virtues not in the other, glycerin ought to be added till the strength was reduced to at least 1 to 5, samples of both of which he laid on the table.

SPIRIT OF NITROUS ETHER.

By David Gilmour.

This note was based on a Sale of Food and Drugs Acts case, in which it was stated that the sweet spirit of nitre sold was as it had been procured from the wholesale house, and that it was practically impossible to open a shop-bottle without loss and deterioration. The author considered it to be of the utmost consequence that we at all times keep faith with the public in supplying drugs, &c., of "the nature and quality demanded," and that prescriber and patient alike should get the benefit of every preparation in its purest and best condition.

The first point which he investigated was the condition in which spirit of nitrous ether is supplied to the retailer by the wholesale houses. In this respect the result in nearly every instance was satisfactory, as out of a considerable number of samples tested one only failed to come up to the standard, of 5½ to 7 volumes of NO. While this is very satisfactory from one point of view, it throws an additional responsibility on the retailer, as what the spirit may become in his keeping depends largely upon himself.

The weak sample was very bad, yielding only 3½ volumes NO. Such a sample may at any time be the weak link in the chain, and emphasises still further the necessity for care on the pharmacist's part.

The author next determined the limits of time and conditions under which the spirit can be safely stocked and sold.

The favourable conditions are a cool underground cellar with little daylight. It may be kept in stoppered "Winchester quarts," for a period of six months unopened, and at the end of that time yield a strength of 5.52 volumes NO. On the other hand, once opened deterioration at once commences, gradually it may be but surely, and in 1-lb. stoppered bottles opened at intervals, the spirit deteriorated in three months from 6.33 volumes NO to 5.16 volumes. Taking the number of prosecutions for this article into consideration, the author thought the results of these investigations reassuring on the whole. Given the proper strength to begin with, in no case during a period of six months unopened, or three months after being opened, did a sample fall below the minimum allowed by the British Pharmacopœia when the spirit was stored in a cool, dark place.

The unfavourable side lies in a bright shop, too many windows, and too much sunlight. The day has come when the 40-oz. or even 20-oz. stoppered shop-round bottle for this article must be removed from the shelf. Thus a 30-oz. stoppered bottle filled and tested on a certain date gave a result of fully 6.33 volumes NO. This in four weeks; a little being taken out from time to time stood at 5.92 volumes, and in other four weeks it was down to 5.16 volumes. A second bottle of similar capacity, but only half-filled, was put to the same test with the result that, beginning with a strength of 6.32 volumes, in a fortnight the spirit fell to 5.8 volumes, and in another week it was down to the minimum of 5 volumes. These data go to emphasise the directions given in the Pharmacopœia, which is a safer guide in most instances than many admit—viz., "Preserve the spirit of nitrous ether in well-closed vessels, preferably in a cool dark place, and in small bottles."

DISCUSSION.

Mr. GEORGE LUNAN said to some extent the North British Branch had a proprietary right in glycerin of boric acid, for Mr. C. F. Henry had suggested that it ought to be introduced into the Pharmacopœia, and he believed the Chairman, Mr. Ewing, and himself had to do with the recommendation of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to the same effect. The preparation was exactly that of the U.S.P. At that time he said that the addition of the glycerin by volume instead of by weight would have made a perfect product. Mr. Lunan then proceeded to comment upon the samples which Mr. Gilmour had submitted, and objected to the preparation recommended because it was not clear. He found the sp. gr. of the B.P. preparation was 1.32. That made it 20 oz. by weight, equal to 15 oz. by volume. The greatest solubility of boric acid in glycerin was 1 in 5, but in the case of glyceryl-borate they got a strength of 1 in 1½.

Mr. ADAM GIBSON thought the preparation of glycerin and boric acid was out of place altogether on account of the time it required. It was unnecessary so long as they could get

boric acid to dissolve in glycerin directly and in a short time. With regard to its use in throat troubles, he remarked if it is applied to a mucous surface it slipped over it and formed a lozenge, and there was none of the medicament left. He could not think how their great authorities in forming the Pharmacopœia ever thought of such a preparation, although no doubt they had the patent glyceryl-borate in view. He was very pleased that Mr. Gilmour had found the spirit of nitre sent out by the wholesale houses was so satisfactory. The specimen yielding three volumes, equal to 1 per cent. of ethyl nitrite, was unpardonable.

Mr. KERR (Dundee) asked Mr. Gilmour if keeping the nitrous spirit in an actinic glass bottle would be an advantage.

Mr. DUNLOP (Glasgow) said Mr. Gilmour's results with spirit of nitre corroborated his own of six or seven years ago. He found that three factors came into play—namely, the colour of the bottle, exposure to sunlight, and temperature.

Mr. BARRIE (Glasgow) said the glycerin-and-boric-acid process of the Pharmacopœia was very awkward, especially for students. A thermometer should always be used in the process. He thought a 1-in-5 solution of borate of glyceryl would be an improvement.

After some remarks by Mr. McDIARMID,

Dr. COULL suggested that half its weight of glycerin should be added to the finished product.

Mr. EWING, having congratulated the Chairman upon the success of the forenoon meeting, said his colleagues and he recommended the College of Surgeons to introduce a thinner solution than the official one.

Mr. GLASS said he had made glycerin of boric acid in two ways—viz., in an enamelled vessel over a Bunsen burner and over a fire at a little less temperature than that directed in the Pharmacopœia, and it came out in the latter case perfectly clear and beautiful. In regard to spirit of nitre, he thought it ought to be kept in a cool place in the ordinary shop, because it was a little awkward for one to have a hand-bottle kept in a cellar.

Mr. COWIE thought that the Pharmacopœial process for making glycerin of boric acid was as good as could be adopted, because they could dilute it to any quantity. He spoke from experience.

Mr. RUTHERFORD HILL congratulated Mr. Gilmour on his papers.

The CHAIRMAN said he had derived much satisfaction from the well-continued discussion which the papers had produced. In regard to glycerin of boric acid, he remarked, as a consenting person to the suggestion of this preparation for the Pharmacopœia, that the formula adopted reminded him of the remark Lord Macaulay once made about a *literateur* who had purloined some phrases from some one else, "the gentleman had stolen these phrases, and spoiled them in the stealing of them." The Pharmacopœia had practically stolen this preparation, and they were disappointed in the process. There was no doubt that the preparation was defective. The whole point about the preparation was that they supposed that glyceryl borate was formed, and when it was brought into contact with moisture by application to a mucous surface boric acid was liberated, and this was considered better than a solution of boric acid in glycerin. He was inclined to agree with Dr. Coull's remarks about adding one-half more glycerin. As a matter of fact, it was a preparation he frequently dispensed, and he had taken the liberty of adding one-fourth more of glycerin to the pharmacopœial process. (Marks of dissent.) That was a frank confession and suggestion at the same time. (Hear, hear.) So far as his own experience went in dissolving boric acid in glycerin, 1 in 5 was as little as one could make it in cold weather. The Chairman also spoke about colouration, whereupon

Dr. COULL said the colouration was not due to the temperature at all; and Mr. EWING corroborated him in the statement. The colouration was owing to the boric acid used. Samples varied greatly in colour.

Mr. GILMOUR, in reply, said the first point was, Is boric acid as a glyceryl-borate superior to glycerin and boric acid? He was not quite clear on that point. As to details he took it for granted they could not, according to the Pharmacopœia, do much without the thermometer. He agreed with Dr. Coull that the temperature had nothing to do with colouring, but he thought they must go according to the

Pharmacopœia as far as they could. In reply to Mr. Kerr, he said it was not enough to put spirit of nitre into green bottles, but that it must be kept in a cool place; and he was quite prepared to keep it out of the shop, and to go downstairs for it.

Mr. W. B. COWIE read a paper on

ACCURACY IN THE MAKING OF SUPPOSITORIES.

He dealt with the various methods which may be adopted to get exact quantities of active ingredients in suppositories. In making 12 belladonna suppositories he found the variation ranged from 13 to 16 gr. Out of 12 phenol suppositories the variation ranged from 12 to 17 gr.; tannin suppositories, 12 to 17 gr.; iodoform suppositories, 14 to 16 gr.; lead suppositories, 14 to 17 gr.; and glycerin suppositories, 60 to 90 gr. Out of three glycerin suppositories, all of the same making, one weighed 66 and another 74 gr.; but of other three from another make one weighed 69 and another 76 gr. When compounded with minute attention to the details of the official formula, and weighed into the mould, a suppository weighing 60 gr. is easily got. Six suppositories of dried sodium carbonate, 10 gr., and oil of theobroma q.s. to 60 gr., varied in weight only from 60 to 61 gr., and the sodium carbonate from 10 to 10½ gr. Twenty-one specimens dispensed in different pharmacies varied in weight from 56 to 79 gr.; and the sodium carbonate from 5½ to 8¾ gr. He considered that a greater degree of accuracy ought to be insisted upon and obtained. He spoke of the various methods employed, and of the capacity of the moulds being standardised by water (sp. gr. 1.000) not oil (sp. gr. 0.977), no glycerin basis (sp. gr. 1.226). In consequence of the varying density of the bases, he recommended that in making six suppositories with oil of theobroma the quantity for seven should be taken, and if glycerin-gelatin the quantity for eight. If they are to contain 10 gr. of dried sodium carbonate in each, with the latter basis weigh out 80 gr. of dried sodium carbonate, prepare the requisite materials for 400 gr. of glycerin-gelatin basis, add the sodium carbonate, and evaporate to 480 gr.; counterpoise the mould on a balance and weigh in 60 gr. of the mass into each of six moulds.

The next paper read was on

LIQUID EXTRACT OF CASCARA.

By Fraser McDiarmid.

In the latest edition of his "Companion," Squire says under liquid extract of cascara, "a specific gravity would have been useful if included in the B.P." and refers the reader to a paper written some years ago, in which Moss, discussing the subject, states that an extract of sp. gr. 1.060 should be made official, and suggests a process, after the fashion of ext. glycyrrh. liq., whereby that result may be obtained. Uniformity in pharmaceutical preparations is professedly the ideal of modern times. Mr. McDiarmid referred to the discussion in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST on the amount of extractive which should be yielded by the liquid extract, and having summarised the various experiences, said it had been his good fortune during the last three years to have a sample of "the very rich, well-matured, selected bark" referred to by Moss to work upon, but after the experience of forty or fifty batches, involving the manipulation of some tons of bark, he had never noticed the sp. gr. below 1.070, and frequently it had been as high as 1.080. The same sample gave 28 grammes of extractive per 100 c.c. dried to constant weight at 110° C. As there was a possibility of loss of volume by evaporation, the alcoholic strength was estimated, and found to be equal to 17.81 per cent. absolute alcohol by volume; the extract was made in close accordance with B.P. directions, so that the theoretical yield of alcohol should be 18 per cent.

Another batch was not quite so good, though it showed a sp. gr. of 1.075, extractive 27 grammes per 100 c.c., absolute alcohol 17.26 per cent.

These figures are high and prove the excellence of the bark used, but they have been equalled in other hands, for Merson in his paper (*C. & D.*, January 5) bearing on the examination of ten different samples, records the finding of 28.45 and 28.60 per cent. of residue; as low a yield, as 18.82 per cent. in one of the samples, however, brings down the average. In any official decision it would be as well to fix on not less than 25 grammes per 100 c.c., especi-

ally as liquid extract of cascara has a tendency, according to the speaker's experience, to deposit to the end of the chapter, so to speak. Umney (*C. & D.*, September 10, 1898) says "the deposit is trifling." Martindale refers to this deposit, to avoid which he suggests a menstruum of 20 per cent. spirit, instead of water. It might be better to evaporate the percolate at a high temperature to induce precipitation before, instead of after, the completion of the extract, or perhaps the addition of a small amount of ammonia would prevent the deposit, as he had observed that the deposit is soluble in ammonia. In regard to the suggestion that more spirit was required to prevent fermentation, he had never seen the need of more than the B.P. directs, and till this question is decided it would be useless to suggest a sp. gr.

Mr. Blake's large percentage of extractive (56.76 and 57.83) was doubtless due to the fact that he had been working on a glycerin extract. As the use of glycerin gave such excellent results he thought ought not to be condemned unheard. The use of glycerin in liquid extract of cascara would be of advantage from the "elegant pharmacy" side, at least, as it would prevent the unsightly deposit. It apparently does not hinder or lessen the gentle laxative effect of the drug. Cascara being one of the most popular remedies, it behoved them as pharmacists to ensure the elegance, uniformity, and activity of its liquid extract.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. LUNAN said accuracy was much more important in the case of the 15-gr. suppositories than in the 60-gr., and suggested trial of the cold method.

Mr. CLAUDE HENRY thought it was not so much the weight of the suppository itself, but the weight of the ingredients that should be correct.

Mr. KERR (Dundee) said it was very difficult to attain accuracy as to the ingredient unless one had a very accurate divider, so he had gone back to the old way which was followed when he was an apprentice. That was to rub the ingredients in a mortar with starch and soap until they were of consistency somewhat like a pill, and then take them up with one's fingers and dip them into wax. This was a very quick way of making suppositories.

Mr. GIBSON said he had put through his hands a good few tons of cascara in his day, and could speak of the sp. gr. and also about the percentage of extractive in the bark. He had made several experiments as to its sp. gr., and the mean he found to be 1.06. In fact, he corroborated Moss in his figures. Sometimes he found more than 25 per cent. of the extractive, and sometimes less—it depended greatly on the bark. But from a good bark three years old he got 25 per cent., and he counted regularly on that. A great deal depended on how the preparation was made, a spirituous menstruum was far better than a watery one. To extract with spirit, let them, after they had got through the quantity of spirit they wished to percolate with, wash it out with water and exhaust the bark with water; take off the spirit, evaporate it into a solid extract, then take in the proportion of 25 per cent., and redissolve the extract in spirit and water in proper quantity, according to the B.P., then they would have a proper extract, and it was always the same. (Applause.) That, he held, was the best way and the only way to extract the bark fully. This Irish case was a misnomer altogether—it should never have been brought forward. Evidently the man had been weighing glycerin instead of extractive. Glycerin was a good thing for cascara too. It helped solution—that was a small quantity—and kept the extractive in solution. He had known that from a lengthened experience; and the fact that a dash of glycerin in addition to the B.P. preparation of spirit would make it a hundred times better than it was now.

Mr. COWIE said, in answer to Mr. Kerr, that he did not wish to bring back the old method, and did not see any necessity for it. Much better suppositories might be got by the moulding process.

Mr. KERR moved a vote of thanks to the authors of the papers, and said he had derived great pleasure and instruction from hearing them. It was a long time since he had attended a scientific meeting. He remembered those which commenced in George Street in Mr. Mackay's back shop. This meeting was an innovation on the evening meetings,

and he hoped these meetings would be continued, for they were very instructive and entertaining.

The CHAIRMAN, in conveying the thanks of the meeting to the authors of the papers, said they were much indebted not only for giving them papers but giving them such good papers. (Applause.)

NEW B.P. DRUGS.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY (Mr. Rutherford Hill) drew the attention of the meeting to a collection of drugs on the table, illustrating the Indian and Colonial B.P. Addendum.

The CHAIRMAN said he was extremely pleased at the attendance at the meeting. He took it as a compliment to the permanent officials of the Society for the trouble they had taken in arranging it, and also as a personal compliment to himself. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

Afterwards sixty of those present, including the ladies, lunched in the board-room, the luncheon being unofficially provided at 2s. a head.

Business Changes.

Notices are inserted free in this section if properly authenticated.

MR. W. RATHERHAM, chemist, Aylesbury, has opened a business at Micheldean, Gloucester.

NEWMAN'S DRUG COMPANY have acquired new premises at 48 Green Street, Upton Park, E.

MR. J. L. HOPKINS, chemist, Pontcymmer, has opened a branch-establishment at 10 Katie Street, Blaengarw.

MR. GEORGE FELLOWES has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. V. A. Wills at 29 Splott Road, Cardiff.

MR. T. DAVIES, chemist and druggist, has taken over the business lately carried on by Mr. D. A. Davies at Gowerton, Glam.

PARKE'S DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED) have recently opened premises at 6 St. Leonard's Terrace, High Road, Streatham, S.W.

WHITELEY'S (LIMITED) opened a new dispensing-department, on January 10, at their premises in Westbourne Grove, W.

MR. A. G. GREEN, chemist, of Wells, Somerset, has bought the business of Mr. R. B. Sandiland, pharmaceutical chemist, at Bicester.

LEWIS & BURROWS (LIMITED) are about to remove from 92 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington, to 274 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, N.

MR. J. JUDGE, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business at 52 Northgate, Wakefield, which has been carried on for the past few years by the widow of Mr. J. Spurling.

MR. THOS. RIDLEY, chemist and druggist, English Street, Carlisle, has purchased the prescriptions and private recipes of the late Mr. Andrew Thompson, pharmaceutical chemist, English Street, Carlisle.

MR. C. R. PICKEN, chemist and druggist, has taken over the business of his father, Mr. T. W. Picken, at High Street, Newport, Salop. Mr. Picken, sen., has been a subscriber to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST since its commencement.

MESSRS. PHILLIP HARRIS & CO. (LIMITED), of Birmingham, have opened a branch establishment for the sale of scientific apparatus, &c., at 179 Great Brunswick Street, Dublin, where a large stock of chemical and physical apparatus will be kept.

MR. W. H. HOBBS, 9 Railway Approach, S.E., has purchased the business hitherto carried on at Dunster House, Mark Lane, E.C., by Malam & Co. In future this will be carried on in connection with his own business under the title of "W. H. Hobbs & Co."

Legal Reports.

High Court Case.

THE VALENTINE TRADE-MARK.

IN the Queen's Bench Division on Friday, January 11, Mr. Martelli applied to Mr. Justice Farwell, on behalf of the Valentine Extract Company (Limited), to set aside the order made by his Lordship on December 7, 1900, expunging three of their trade-marks from the register. Mr. Martelli explained that Mr. C. R. Valentine, the managing director of the company, had failed to attend the court owing to a misunderstanding. His Lordship said no very clear ground was shown why the injunction should be given, but he allowed the matter to stand over for a fortnight on condition that the defendant paid to the Valentine Meat-juice Company 35*l.* to cover the costs that they had been put to in the matter.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

MERCURIAL OINTMENT.

AT Folkestone Police Court on January 12, Mr. William Ransford was summoned at the instance of the Sanitary Committee for selling mercurial ointment not according to the British Pharmacopœia. When the case was called the Town Clerk said he wished to withdraw the summons and would offer no evidence. Mr. Minter, who appeared for the defendant, made a strong appeal for costs, urging the annoyance and expense to which his client had been unjustifiably put by the summons. The Town Clerk submitted that defendant's solicitor, or defendant himself even, was not bound to attend, as the prosecution had intimated to the defence that the summons would be withdrawn. Mr. Minter thereupon pertinently inquired what right they had to withdraw the summons without the consent of the Magistrates, and the Bench eventually allowed Mr. Ransford 2*l.* 2*s.* for costs.

SPIRIT OF NITROUS ETHER.

AT the Bishop Auckland Police Court on January 14, Robert Race, of Close House, was summoned for selling spirit of nitrous ether which, upon being analysed, was found to be deficient in ethyl nitrite. On behalf of the defendant Mr. Proud submitted that the apparently defective spirit was not due to any negligence on the defendant's part. It was a most volatile liquid, and had evaporated under circumstances over which the defendant had no control. He called Mr. Merson, of the firm of Wilkinson & Simpson (Limited), of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who stated that the ethyl nitrite was very subject to evaporation or decomposition, and it was possible for the deficiency to have been caused by the transference of the liquid to the inspector, who exposed it for some time to the air when dividing it. The defendant was fined 10*s.*, including costs.

MALT-VINEGAR.

AT Cupar Sheriff Court on January 15, Margaret Jane Meikle, grocer, was charged with selling a bottle of malt-vinegar containing only 20 per cent. of malt-vinegar, the remainder being dilute acetic acid. The charge was denied, and evidence was led at considerable length. Mr. Macdougald, county analyst, said the effect of distilling malt-vinegar would be to change its character entirely. His analysis was quite consistent with the vinegar having been distilled from pure malt-vinegar, as stated on the label. Asked if there was anything in the vinegar which would cause prejudice to the customer, witness replied that there was nothing deleterious, but it was not malt-vinegar. The Sheriff said the whole question appeared to be whether the article ought to have been sold as malt-vinegar. He was afraid people dealing in small shops would require a course of chemistry. In giving his decision, the Sheriff held that no offence had been proved under Section 6 of the Act. So far as he could judge, if he were to find otherwise it would be a very serious interference with a recognised and legitimate trade, because they had it from the evidence of the prosecution that this white vinegar was distilled from pure malt, and was a well-known article of commerce in Scotland.

There was no doubt whatever, in buying this vinegar and in getting this distilled vinegar, the purchaser was not prejudiced. He had no alternative but to hold the complaint not proven.

County Court Cases.

A VARIETY OF CLAIMS.

IN the Westminster County Court on January 15, the case of Allen *v.* Barber was before His Honour Judge Lumley Smith, Q.C., by way of a judgment summons, in which the plaintiff applied for the committal of the defendant, a chemist, for non-payment of a judgment debt. Plaintiff's representative said the judgment debt was in respect of printing done to the order of the defendant at a time when he was carrying on business as a chemist at Upper Holloway. He had only recently sold his business for a good sum, and was well able to pay. His Honour made an order for payment in fourteen days, subject to committal for twelve days in default.

IN the case of Cook *v.* Joynson, at the same Court, plaintiff applied for the committal of the defendant, a chemist's assistant, living at 19 Shaftesbury Avenue, for non-payment of a judgment debt in respect of clothes supplied. Plaintiff's representative said the defendant had recently come into a large sum of money, and was well able to pay at once, and his Honour made an order committing him to prison for twelve days in default of payment in a week.

THE next case was that of Ash & Co. *v.* Withers. It was an action by a firm of photographic-goods dealers, carrying on business in the Strand, to recover 15*l.* in respect of photographic goods supplied to the defendant, who until recently carried on business in Camberwell Road in partnership with one Nansen. A question arose as to whether the defendant was legally liable, but in the result his Honour gave judgment for the plaintiffs for the amount claimed, with costs.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re RICHARD GEORGE CHAPMAN, 42 High Street, Smethwick, Stafford, Chemist and Druggist.

AT the West Bromwich County Court on January 15, the public examination of this debtor was resumed. It was stated that in consequence of insufficient capital it had been a continual struggle for debtor to carry on the business, and for the past three years he had been sued by creditors. The deficiency is stated at 147*l.* Debtor was eventually allowed to pass his examination.

Re RICHARD JNO. WILLIAMS, 7 Guildhall Square, Carmarthen, Chemist, &c.

THE following are creditors in this failure:—

	£	s.	d.
Camwal (Limited), Bristol ...	42	6	10
Cowan, Wm., & Co., Belfast ...	24	13	0
Evans, Lescher & Webb, London...	11	17	11
Franklyn, Davies & Co., Bristol ...	14	18	8
Lawrence, J. & F., London ...	11	18	9
Phillips, M. S., & Co., Carmarthen	42	19	6
Pulling, Wm., & Co., Hereford ...	£1	8	6
Williams, Jno., Carmarthen ...	£05	0	0
Winterson, F. & A., Bristol ...	17	5	6

Re ALLAN PERCY NOSWORTHY, 3 St. Leonard's Terrace, Hove, late 37 Preston Street, Brighton, Chemist and Druggist.

THIS bankrupt applied to His Honour Judge Martineau, at the Brighton Bankruptcy Court on January 11, for his discharge. The Official Receiver reported that debtor was adjudged bankrupt on June 23, 1899. The liabilities to rank for dividend as stated by the debtor were estimated at 1,529*l.* 11*s.*, but the proofs actually admitted 1,866*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* This marked difference between the estimated and the actual and provable liabilities is mainly due to a creditor's claim being increased by 300*l.*, the amount of a preference which he repaid to the trustee. The balance available for dividend was 477*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, instead of 171*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, as estimated by the bankrupt. A first and final dividend, amounting to

4s. 4d. in the pound, was paid on 1,866l. 9s. 9d. The bankrupt commenced business as a chemist at Tunbridge Wells in 1894, with money advanced by his father-in-law. In 1897 he took a shop in Preston Street, Brighton, and shortly afterwards sold the business at Tunbridge Wells. In addition he carried on a shop at Portslade. His father-in-law advanced at this time sums amounting to 1,000l., and further guaranteed an overdraft of 300l. at the bank. In February, 1899, the Portslade business was sold for 167l., and the Brighton business was continued until May, 1899, when that also was sold for 599l. At this time his banking account was overdrawn by 437l. He afterwards paid the full amount of his father-in-law's guarantee, but when the bankruptcy proceedings were threatened for the recovery of the preference of the 300l. paid to redeem the guarantee the father-in-law paid the amount to the trustee in the bankruptcy. The bankrupt kept a cash book and ledger, but these were never balanced, and did not disclose his financial position. The Official Receiver further reported that the assets were not of a value equal to 10s. in the pound; that the bankrupt had omitted to keep such books of account as were usual and proper in the business carried on by him, and sufficiently discloses his business transactions within the three years preceding his bankruptcy; that the bankrupt had continued to trade after knowing himself to be insolvent; and that the bankrupt had within three months preceding the date of the receiving order when unable to pay his debts gave an undue preference to one of his creditors. The bankrupt's conduct had been satisfactory; but the Official Receiver would call the attention of the Court to the bankrupt's conduct in seeking to prefer his father-in-law, and in paying off the bank when he was hopelessly insolvent. Mr. T. H. F. Finney, Deputy Official Receiver, represented the Board of Trade, and His Honour found the offences reported proved, and suspended the order of discharge for two and a half years.

Re EPHRAIM BURTON, late of 20 High Holborn, W.C., trading as the Sanitants Manufacturing Company.

This debtor applied on Wednesday to Mr. Registrar Giffard, at the London Bankruptcy Court, for an order of discharge. He failed in June, 1893, with ranking liabilities 2,609l. 8s. 4d., and assets valued at 5l. 1s., but which realised only the odd 1s.

The Official Receiver reported that in 1895 the bankrupt patented a disinfecting compound, which he manufactured in very small quantities until October, 1898, when he became associated with a firm of company-promoters, who financed him so that he could manufacture the article on a larger scale and advertise it with a view to forming a company to take it over. In February, 1898, the Sanitas Company (Limited) obtained an injunction, with costs 120l. 11s. 6d., against him, restraining him from using the word "Sanitants," and a few months later he became bankrupt, as he could not pay the costs. Insufficiency of assets to pay 10s. in the pound to the creditors and a previous failure were the offences charged by the Official Receiver.

Mr. F. Cooper Willis, on behalf of the Sanitas Company (Limited), further alleged imperfect books, trading with knowledge of insolvency, putting the Sanitas Company to unnecessary expense by a frivolous and vexatious defence to an action properly brought, and fraud in carrying on business in deodorants, disinfectants, and antiseptics, under the name of "The Sanitants Manufacturing Company" or "The Sanitants Manufacturing Company (Limited)," and in selling and supplying goods not of the petitioning creditors as "Sanitas" goods.

The bankrupt addressed the Court in support of the application, and submitted that he was perfectly innocent of any intention to commit fraud on the Sanitas Company.

The learned Registrar, in reviewing the case, saw no evidence of fraud in any ascertainable sense, but suspended the discharge for a further term of three years.

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

Armitage, E. E., and Boulton, E. H., under the style of Armitage, Boulton & Co., Mitcham, varnish-manufacturers.

Brooks, R. W., and Bodle, W. E., under the style of Brooks, Bodle & Co., Mincing Lane, E.C., wine merchants and agents.

Evans, R., and Edwards, R. L., under the style of Evans & Edwards, Brooksby's Walk, Homerton, N.E., physicians and surgeons.

Jeken, J., and Smith, H. S., under the style of Jeken & Sandford Smith, Eltham, medical practitioners.

Palmer, F. S., and Rodman, G. H., under the style of Drs. Palmer & Rodman, East Sheen, Surrey, general medical practitioners.

Parsons, F. W., Barton, P. F., and Hayward, J. A., under the style of Parsons, Barton & Hayward, Wimbledon, general medical practitioners; so far as regards F. W. Parsons.

Reilly, F. J., Reilly, L. St. J., and Reilly, F. B., under the style of Reilly & Sons, Globe Road, Mile End, E., and Victoria Park Road, Hackney, N.E., physicians and surgeons; so far as regards L. St. J. Reilly.

Smith, J., and Masterman, S. G., under the style of Smith & Masterman, Huntingdon and Godmanchester, veterinary surgeons.

Willis, J., and Potter, J. C., under the style of Willis & Potter, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, W., physicians and surgeons.

The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890

RECEIVING ORDER.

Parott, William Searle, Watford, chemist and dentist.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Mosely, Benjamin Lewin, now or late Regent Street, W., and Lancaster Terrace, Primrose Hill, N.W., surgeon-dentist.

Currie, John Legge, Lowestoft and Bungay, Suffolk, member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Elliott, George, 41 Milkstone Road, and 71 Milnrow Road, Rochdale, drug-store keeper. Trustee, Henry M. Ashworth, Tweedale Street, Rochdale, accountant. Dated, January 8; filed January 9. Liabilities unsecured, 165l. 16s. 11d.; estimated net assets, 70l. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Brooks & Co. (Limited), Manchester	11	0	0
Heath Brothers, Manchester	19	0	0
Kerfoot, T., & Co., Ashton-under-Lyne	10	0	0
Oldfield, Pattinson & Co., Manchester	33	0	0
Ramm, William, Rochdale	21	0	0
Rent	11	0	0

Kent, Thomas Ramsey, 226 Blackfriars Road, Southwark; 103 Westminster Bridge Road; and 76 New Cut, Lambeth, pharmaceutical chemist. Trustee, J. Henry Vagg, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, E.C., I.A. Dated, January 3; filed, January 10. Secured creditors, 550l.; liabilities unsecured, 328l.; estimated net assets, 230l. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Davy, Hill & Son, London	42	0	0
Farmar, Miss, Dorking	22	0	0
Galpin, —, London	69	0	0
Greenfield & Cracknell, London	14	0	0
Greenwood, —, London	20	0	0
Inland Revenue	23	0	0
Mauners & Hopkinson, London	37	0	0
Meggeson & Co., London	16	0	0
Newbery & Sons, London	72	0	0

Thompson, George, trading as "W. H. Hale & Thompson," Dunedin House, 2 Basinghall Avenue, E.C., and residing at 21 Harold Road, Hornsey, chemical-manure manufacturer and agent. Trustee, Harry G. Wilson, Dunedin House, 2 Basinghall Avenue, E.C., chartered accountant. Dated, January 8; filed, January 9. Liabilities unsecured, 1,116l. 18s. 2d.; estimated net assets, 448l. 18s. 2d. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Burnard & Alger (Limited), Plymouth	239	0	0
Hale, Mary, London	508	0	0
Hicklin, Washington & Pasmore, London	19	0	0
Whalley's Sanitary Fluid Co., London	50	0	0
Wilson, H. G., London	45	0	0
Bankers' claims	247	0	0

NEW PERUVIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF.—A new Peruvian tariff comes into operation on May 1, which is fully 25 per cent. higher than the one now existing. Nearly all the principal goods imported into Peru are affected by the contemplated increase of tariff, which may be consulted at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50 Parliament Street, S.W.

Personalities.

MR. A. MACKAY, of Sir gapore, is now on a visit home, and is at present in Scotland

MR. W. OLDHAM, chemist and druggist, Burslem, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the borough.

COUNCILLOR BATESON, J.P., pharmaceutical chemist, has been re-elected to the Kendal School Board, and again appointed its Chairman.

PROFESSOR NORMAN COLLIE, F.R.S., on Monday evening delivered a fresh lecture on the Canadian Rockies to the Royal Geographical Society.

MR. W. ELBORNE, M.A., Ph.C., the borough analyst for Peterborough, has been elected President of the Peterborough Guild of Arts and Handicrafts.

MR. E. GANE INGE, dispensing and photographic chemist, of Haslemere, has opened a branch-establishment at Headley Road, Hindhead.

MR. PERCY BALDWIN, chemist and druggist, has joined Messrs. G. Baldwin & Son, herbalists, of Deptford Bridge, and will conduct the drug-and-dispensing department.

MR. RICHARD BIRRELL CARRUTHERS ALLAN writes to us from Dumfries, calling our attention to the fact that in the Edinburgh pass-list his surname was incorrectly spelt "Allen."

MR. LEONARD W. STANTON, chemist and druggist, late manager to Mr. W. J. Ward, chemist, Conisbrough, at his branch establishment at Denaby Main, Yorkshire, has been appointed manager of the Billington Lung-halsam Company (Limited), 21 New Street, Barnsley.

MR. JAMES MAURICE, of Plymouth, wrote to Lord Roberts recently, suggesting that his name indicated that he was of Welsh rather than Irish extraction. Lord Roberts, in reply, said:—"I write to inform you that my family is Irish, and that it is not my good fortune to claim any connection with your Principality."

MR. PETER STOREI, Director of the Verein Deutsches Theatre in London, has intimated by circular to members of the Society that a new play by Mr. Heinrich Blau, entitled "Götzen," will be produced at St. George's Hall on Saturday, February 2. Mr. Blau is well known in drug-trade circles as the agent for Hoff's malt-extract but it is perhaps not so well known that his reputation as a German poet and dramatist is of no mean order.

MR. ALBERT O. SPOTTS, the American pharmacist who came to this country a little over a year ago to act as dispenser on the American hospital-ship *Maine*, has, after three voyages, relinquished the post. Mr. Spotts made two trips with the *Maine* to South Africa then went with the vessel to Chinese waters, and came home with it at the beginning of this week when the *Maine* transferred the invalids to Netley Hospital. Mr. Spotts has had an exceptional experience for a young man, and has made the acquaintance of many pharmacists in the parts of the world which he has visited. He speaks favourably of the pharmaceutical experience which he has had on board the *Maine*, and we were interested to learn that since the first voyage he has been ranked with the medical officers of the vessel, and has messed with them. He is practically the only one of the original staff of medical officers who has stayed with the *Maine* during the fifteen months that she has been chartered as a hospital-ship. Mr. Spotts is now on a visit to Berlin, and in the course of a fortnight will leave for his home in Philadelphia with the object of resuming his medical studies which were interrupted by his volunteering to go with the *Maine*. He is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

THE annual profits of the Munyon remedies, according to Charles Austin Pates, are enormous. Although Professor Munyon commenced their manufacture only a few years ago he is known to have invested out of one year's profits alone nearly a quarter of a million dollars in Philadelphia real estate.—*Printers' Ink*.

Pharmaceutical Fauna.



The Hitchin Deer.

This graceful creature may frequently be found roaming over the hilly district of Hertfordshire in the neighbourhood of Hitchin, where it has unearthed many a rare specimen, which indicates that the district was the health-resort of the Romans when Britain was a colony of the great Empire. It is, however, chiefly noted amongst the pharmaceutical herd on account of its preference for atropaceous herbs, for with it "tain't all lavender," as the poets say. It is in the habit of pressing the juices from the herbs that it gathers, and doing other things from which its specific name is derived—*Ransomus galenicus*. Its offspring, *R. galenicus* var. *filatellus*, has inherited the taste for helladonna, and other things of that nature.

Veterinary Notes.

By M.R.C.V.S.

MAGGOTS.

THE time of year has again come round when country chemists may benefit their clients and themselves by calling attention to remedies for the warble-maggot, which has now attained to considerable size, on the backs and adjacent parts of cattle. Year after year the Royal Agricultural Society, through its consulting entomologist (Miss Eleanor Ormerod), has called the attention of stock-owners to the mischief wrought by this easily-preventable parasite; but it would seem as necessary as ever to repeat the warning. Advice gratis is too often assumed to be worth no more than it costs; but a reminder and a ready-made remedy, with plain directions, will be both acted on and paid for when brought to the notice of the farmer. The pamphlet issued by the Board of Agriculture contains the essential facts respecting this warble and its methods of propagation, and extracts from it would form good matter on a label for a speciality. It can be obtained without so much as paying postage for the written application. Many thousands of pounds sterling are annually lost by the deterioration of hides, and the use of unguents or lotions at this season will altogether rid the beast of the warbles until advanced summer, while affording Nature time to completely cicatrize the wounds and bring the hide up to full value if the owner is required to part with it before another winter. Milking cows may be assumed to thrive better and give more milk if not annoyed with what amounts to a number of small abscesses. Store cattle can be yarded for an hour in order to be dressed. In the latter case we advise a mercurial ointment, which should be effective in one application.

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT for selling a liniment containing some laudanum! The sentence is almost ferocious. I have looked up the Debtors Act, and I suppose Judge Collier is technically correct in his interpretation of it. But it should not be forgotten that the purpose of that Act was to abolish, not to extend, imprisonment for debt. Since 1839 the law of England has not regarded debt as a misdemeanour. As frequently as not the creditor is as dangerous to the community as the debtor, and the nation declined in 1839 to be the tool of the former any longer to the extent of enacting vengeance on his adversary by punishment if money could not be got. It left, however, the power with county court judges to commit to prison persons who, in their opinion, refused to pay just debts when they had the means to do so. That was all. The imprisonment of debtors therefore when it is enforced is for contumacy or contempt of Court, not for the satisfaction of the creditor.

* * * *

THE PROVISION IN THE ACT on which the County Court Judge of Liverpool acted was Section 4, which declares that "No person shall be arrested or imprisoned for making default of payment of a sum of money," but makes certain exceptions, the first of which is

Default in payment of a penalty or sum in the nature of a penalty other than a penalty in respect of any contract.

Probably only penalties imposed in criminal courts were contemplated. A penalty sued for in a county court, which is what Section 15 of the Pharmacy Act authorises, is in essence a debt. Still the legality of the sentence is perhaps not doubtful. That is a matter for lawyers; but its policy is a question for chemists, and especially for those who respect the Pharmacy Act.

* * * *

"IT IS WORSE THAN A CRIME: it is a blunder," was one of the historical dicta attributed to the cynical but shrewd French statesman Talleyrand. That reflection is applicable here. It was editorially remarked last week in the *C. & D.* that "the Pharmacy Act does not make imprisonment an alternative to a fine," and it is not in the least likely that either then or now Parliament would knowingly sanction any such extension of the power of punishment. The provision in the Debtors Act of 1839 could certainly not have been anticipated in 1838, and between those dates and the present time there has been no end of evidence showing that when Parliament has intended to order imprisonment as an alternative to a money penalty it has specifically enacted it. The Sale of Food and Drugs Act of 1899 is a case in point. After a great deal of discussion power was given to Courts to impose imprisonment for third offences under Section 6 for a period not exceeding three months "if the Court is of opinion that a fine will not meet the circumstances of the case." That provision was unnecessary so far as it applied to persons unable to pay the fine if the Liverpool judgment is correct. According to this the Court can impose imprisonment not exceeding twelve months in such cases, and need not wait for a third or even for a second offence.

* * * *

"THEN PENNILESS PEOPLE may infringe the Act with impunity," replies the lawyer. This is exactly the argument which was used thirty years ago by the defenders of imprisonment for debt. The answer is that if that consequence should result, we must submit the case to Parliament, and ask for fresh powers. And that is precisely what the Phar-

maceutical Council is proposing to do. One of the clauses of the draft Bill aims to shift the responsibility for the penalty from the assistant to the more substantial employer. As for the case under review it appears that the prerogative of mercy rests now with the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, and he will, I am sure, act wisely if he exercises it. Clemency, it has been said, is sometimes dictated by vanity, sometimes by idleness, sometimes by fear, and generally by a mixture of these motives. It is unnecessary to say more than that it will be prudent to exercise it now. Neither public nor legislative sympathy, will be with us if we attempt to enforce our legal position by pressing for or enforcing such judgments as the one obtained at Liverpool or the similar one now being sought for in Scotland.

* * * *

THE ACTION UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT brought against Mr. Trick, who seems to have been trading quite legitimately under the assumed name of Scott-Russell, was surely a mere waste of public time. No offence was disclosed, for it was not seriously contended that a registered person had not the right to assume a trading name. The British Dental Association was informed of the facts, and as a taxpayer I appeal to magistrates not to permit this egregious body to use our costly courts as arenas for the parade of its frivolous complaints. But there is an interesting point in connection with this prosecution which is not brought out in the report. Section 12 of the Dentists Act orders that

The General Registrar shall from time to time insert in the dentists' register any alteration which may come to his knowledge in the name or address of any person registered.

There is no similar provision in either the Medical Act or the Pharmacy Act, but the section quoted clearly anticipates in the case of dentists such alteration of name as Mr. Trick chose to adopt. More than that, it throws the onus of correcting the register not on Mr. Trick, but on the Registrar. So that it was the latter, if anybody, who ought to have been prosecuted.

* * * *

THE ADDITION OF A DISPENSING RESTRICTION to the Pharmacy Bill was apparently inevitable after the general expression of opinion through the country. I am disposed to think, however, that the trade will get both more and less than they are bargaining for by this addition if they secure it. More, inasmuch as such an enactment would prevent any compounding being done by unqualified persons except under supervision; and less, because it would not prevent anybody from benefiting from the business who now does so. For I cannot think it will be possible yet to stop unqualified dispensing in surgeries and dispensaries. We are tending towards such an end, but to raise the question now is to invite a mighty opposition to the Bill.

* * * *

THE SPOKESMEN FOR PHARMACY cannot be said to have given a cordial support to the Bill. Some of them seem more eager to maintain their character as critics, and to pick out faults in the draft, rather than help forward what looks like a serious effort to re-establish the status of British pharmacy under existing conditions. They are not very numerous. The same two or three dozen gentlemen provide the opinion of the trade, or the craft as they call it, on whatever question turns up. It is not, of course, their fault that the rest say nothing, and we ought to be grateful to those who do take the trouble to express views. But the way forward would be clearer if there were some means of ascertaining what the great silent majority is thinking. Thousands of chemists never attend a meeting, and never write letters to the journals, but are nevertheless keenly interested in their occupation, and hold decided opinions on proposed policies. Some of these will complain if the Pharmacy Bill should pass, while a good many others will be keenly disappointed if it should be abandoned. Which is the stronger tendency of these two?

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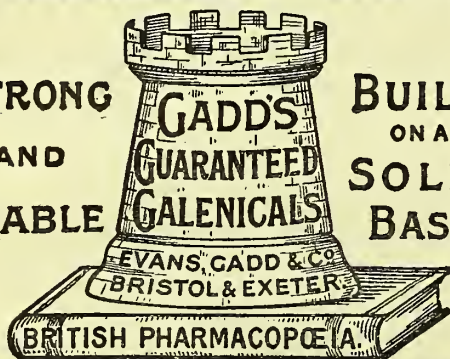


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An Enemy within our Gates.

THE London Chamber of Commerce is not a national body, its status being exactly similar to that of the provincial Chambers, but it has a special influence owing to its situation in the metropolis, and it has the consequent advantage

of getting quickly into touch with administrative and official bodies. That fact seemed to be appreciated by the promoter of the Bill "to alter and amend the law relating to the sale of poisons and poisonous compounds for agricultural and other trade purposes," who early last summer got the Chemical Section of the Chamber to discuss the measure, and after an adjournment it was again discussed towards the end of the year with the result that the voting was a tie. The promoter of the Bill communicated a report to the Press, which stated that the Section decided in favour of the Bill, and the Secretary to the Chamber appears not to have taken the trouble to contradict these erroneous reports. When it is considered that practically all the wholesale druggists of London and the leading manufacturers of pharmaceutical chemicals are members of the Chemical Section, the result of the discussion on Mr. Dobbs's Bill cannot be regarded as favourable to pharmaceutical interests. We have felt that there is some undercurrent at work in the Chamber against these interests, and that now appears to be not altogether unfounded, for the Secretary of the Chamber has recently circulated the following letter to members:—

DEAR SIR,—Has your attention been called to a draft Pharmacy Bill which has been adopted at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain of the 5th inst.? In it it is proposed that certain so-called poisons—which include paint, weed-killer, saltpetre, &c.—shall only be sold by registered persons, a term which I take to mean exclusively chemists. Clause 4 of this Bill would prevent any other than a registered person from acting as a director of a corporate body keeping open shop for the sale of poisons, &c. This, I take it, would prevent stores and similar retail establishments from making up or retailing medicines. This Bill apparently reacts upon grocers and oilmen, as well as upon stores and the large retail houses which have chemists' departments. I am expecting shortly to hear in answer to letters which I am writing, and when this proposal becomes more actively known to all the trades affected, and shall be glad, meanwhile, if your firm will kindly consider the question and advise me as to the best course to adopt in the matter. If a meeting is considered desirable, I shall be glad to hear whether, in your opinion, a joint meeting of all affected should be held, or whether different trades should meet separately.

Yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY, Secretary.

It is much easier to be an authority on the trade of the Empire than to comment intelligently on any small section of that trade; and that, we fancy, is how it happens that the Secretary to the London Chamber of Commerce has fallen into the glaring blunder represented in the second sentence of this letter. The Pharmacy Bill does not refer at all to "paint, weed-killer, saltpetre, &c.," nor does it propose to extend the poisons schedule or even enlarge the principle upon which that schedule is extended under the sanction of the Privy Council. But this blunder of Mr. Murray's is of secondary importance to the inimical spirit which his letter exhibits towards pharmacy. It is generally considered to be the first duty of those who occupy such responsible positions as he does to thoroughly acquaint themselves with both sides of any question upon which they express an opinion. It is obvious that Mr. Murray is not familiar with pharmacy law else he would not have ventured the interpretation which he puts upon Clause 4. We do not call attention to the matter in order to correct Mr. Murray, but that the Chemical Section, of which Mr. Thomas Tyrer is Chairman, may take an early opportunity of declaring whether or not the Secretary's zeal reflects their views. His letter, following upon the action of the Section on Mr. Dobbs's Bill, leaves the impression that retail chemists may as well regard the London Chamber of Commerce as an enemy; but with so many pharmacists on the Chemical Section, as well as others who owing to business relations know the condition of the retail drug-trade well, this impression should be easily

removed. It can be done in no better way than by the Chemical Section considering the Pharmacy Bill and Mr. Murray's letter together.

Our Foreign Trade in 1900.

DURING the year just closed the United Kingdom imported 523,633,486*l.* worth of goods, against 485,035,583*l.* worth in 1899. The largest increase took place in purchases of raw materials for textile and other manufactures, which together represented more than half the total increase. A little more than a fourth of this increase was represented by grain, as we only bought 800,000*l.* worth more, but there was a greater consumption of imported dead meat to the value of 3,500,000*l.*; prices were, however, higher. Rice seems to have been one of the few things that was cheap last year, for we were able to purchase about half a million hundred-weights more at a reduction of nearly 100,000*l.* We tickled our national palate with considerably less spices, smoked less tobacco, drank less wine, but more tea and coffee. We also increased our sweet-tooth reputation by importing more sugar, perhaps because it was cheap; our bill for currants was 800,000*l.* more, although we took 300,000 cwt. less. Cocoa is still a favourite beverage, the imports of both raw and prepared for home consumption showing up well. Of the coffee imported only about a fourth is consumed in this country, but a curious fact is that although we bought 200,000*l.* cwt. less, we ourselves consumed 15,000 cwt. more than we did in the previous year.

In regard to the drug and drysaltary trades, the most noteworthy fact of the year was that the importation of spirits for methylation increased enormously. Thus in 1898 the deliveries for this purpose were only 1,376 gals., in 1899 8,573 gals., and in 1900 61,708 gal.^s. We bought less chemicals, &c., by 209,337*l.*, but when the figures are looked into they show larger purchases of alkali, borax, brimstone, saltpetre, calcium carbide, and less indigo, cutch, and gambier, coal-tar dyes, and tanning-bark. Elsewhere we give a table of statistics regarding the imports and exports of the chief chemicals and drug staples. Our purchases of gum arabic, shellac, and other gums of this class have increased in weight and declined in value. We bought 120,000*l.* worth more crude drugs, although we do not think the quantity, if it were recorded, would show much increase, as values were on a higher scale in 1900, especially in regard to continental drugs.

We exported in 1900 291,451,306*l.* worth of goods, an increase of 26,959,095*l.* as compared with 1899, but a glance at the figures reveals considerably more than half of this was due to coal-shipsments. This is decidedly the most prominent feature of the year's export-trade, and nobody but the coal people is glad of it. Metals are second on the list with an increase of over five million pounds sterling; yarns and textile fabrics, such as cotton, jute, linen, silk, and wool, are third; and manufactured articles fourth. Our exports of drugs and chemicals have grown slightly—viz., from 8,854,813*l.* in 1899 to 9,271,510*l.* in 1900. The chief improvement was in bleaching-materials, sulphate of copper, and medicines of all kinds. Our exports of alkali, however, continue to dwindle, but here again we note that values increased by 90,000*l.* while the quantity dropped by 151,000 cwt. The United States is still our best customer for this article, then follow Spain, Italy, Canada, Australasia, and Holland, although the exports to the last-named country are no doubt mainly in transit to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Russia, France, and Germany will soon cease

buying alkali from us, if the figures for 1900 are any indication of the future. The exports to Russia are worth quoting—viz, 156,500 cwt. in 1899 and 80,069 cwt. in 1900—a decrease due to the advance of the Solvay process in Russia. There is a very satisfactory increase in our exports of painters' colours, but soap shows a lamentable falling-off both in quantity and value. This is probably due to increased American competition. Of seed oil our exports are considerably larger than last year, our trade with Germany and Holland having more than doubled in value.

Re-exports of foreign and colonial produce show a diminution of nearly two million pounds sterling, thus indicating that the protective tariffs of continental nations operate entirely against us. For instance, our re-exports of raw cotton have declined, also raw cocoa, coffee, caoutchouc, indigo, gum arabic, quicksilver, and spices. On the other hand, our shipments of tea increased from 32,000,000 lbs. to 43,000,000 lbs. in 1900, the figures showing that tea-drinking on the Continent is growing. The figures relating to cinchona-bark are instructive, for while in 1900 the shipments increased only 2,895 cwt. they increased in value by 45,764%. Our re-shipments of palm oil and coconut oil are quite a feature in their way, especially the latter, which jumped from 67,003 cwt. in 1893 to 140,792 cwt. in 1900; the increase in palm oil is hardly so pronounced.

The fact that the sea-borne traffic of the world is controlled by Great Britain has never been doubted; but the competition is becoming dangerously unpleasant, for although we find that the tonnage of British ships cleared from this country to foreign ports in 1900 amounted to 27,976,438 tons, that of foreign vessels approached 15,340,390 tons. It ought to be stated, moreover, that the latter figures are an improvement on previous years, while those relating to British shipping are almost stationary. It has been a matter of common knowledge for years that our great commercial rivals envy us nothing so much as our mercantile marine, but Germany is fast overhauling us in this direction, and America is also waking up, for there is a pending Bill before Congress which advocates State aid for American shipping, and as British ships carry most of the American foreign trade, it is this country that will be effected by the change. The present year is, therefore, likely to witness a keener struggle than ever for supremacy in trade, and unless we are strenuous and vigilant we are likely to be left behind in the race. We do not think, however, that there is any reason why we should enter upon the twentieth century with any settled conviction that our commerce is decaying. The whole question appears to turn on the fact as to whether our industries which have no Government support can successfully fight those that are subsidised by the bounties of foreign Governments. We have confidence that they will, for their success was based on inherent grit and go, and not on Government bounties.

Artificial-violet Patents.

AN interesting decision has been given by the German Reichsgericht in respect to the German ionone patent of Professor Tiemann. The prolonged litigation between Messrs. Haarmann & Reimer, the owners of the patent, and Messrs. Franz Fritzsche & Co., of Hamburg, manufacturers of artificial oil of violets, has thereby acquired a perfectly new aspect which is of interest and importance beyond the limits of Germany. The Reichsgericht, having annulled the previous decisions given in favour of the patentee, has referred the matter back for re-trial. The principal, and for Germany perhaps the most important, reason for the Reichsgericht's decision is the dictum that it is absolutely

necessary in defining the patent-rights in an invention of this nature that the description in the specification should be exactly followed and read with the knowledge existing at the time the patent was granted. Matters which arise in consequence of the invention, or are after developments discovered by further research, must be excluded from consideration in defining the limits of the original invention. Professor Tiemann made an invention of the highest importance when he succeeded in obtaining by condensation of citral and acetone in the presence of alkaline reagents, according to the well-known Claisen reaction, a ketone of the formula $C_{13}H_{20}O$, with a sp. gr. of 0.904, and transformed by boiling with dilute acids into an odorific principle smelling like violets, and to which he gave the name "ionone." The untransformed condensation-product or "pseudo-ionone," which has not a very pronounced smell, and is, therefore, unsuitable for commercial purposes, is described in the patent as boiling between 143° and 145° C. at 12 mm. pressure, whilst ionone, an isomeric ketone produced from pseudo-ionone, is stated to have a sp. gr. of 0.935, and to boil about 128° C. at 12 mm. pressure. The process of manufacture, which is the subject of the patent, is only protected in its application to the preparation of ionone thus exactly defined, but not to the preparation of any other product. It is upon this point that the Reichsgericht considers that the evidence upon which the Courts have relied in previous judgments is unsatisfactory. To obtain a proper basis upon which to deliver judgment, experiments must be made in exact accordance with the specification, and the product obtained and called in the patent "pure ionone" must be examined to ascertain whether it possesses the physical properties stated in the patent. If the results of the examination coincide with the patentee's statement, the product is the ionone invented by Professor Tiemann. Another point may have to be decided, says the Reichsgericht, if this ionone is not a uniform body but an isomeride, or a mixture of isomerides, as was subsequently maintained by Professor Tiemann. If the product consists of one isomeride, or contains a second isomeride even in small quantities, it is evident that the production, in a pure state, of the second isomeride, which the inventor at the time the patent was granted knew nothing about, constitutes an independent invention and does not fall under the patent. The process is also different from that patented, if, for instance, the second isomeride were produced by heating with acid considerably longer or of greater concentration than indicated in the patent. On the other hand, if by keeping exactly to the process described in the patent a mixture of various isomerides is obtained, then the patent can only protect such a mixture as at the time the inventor prepared, and which is defined by the method of preparation and the physical properties given in the patent. Nor can the patentee's protection be extended either to the unmixed isomerides or to mixtures of the same or other isomerides in different proportions, if, as is claimed in the case of artificial oil of violets, the production of the latter preparations involves considerable changes in the method of manufacture and leads to different technical qualities.

All the foregoing points are directed by the Reichsgericht to be taken into consideration in deciding what is ionone, and in what relation artificial oil of violets stands to it. The Reichsgericht further criticises sharply the reports of the various experts who supported the contention of the substantial identity of artificial oil of violets with ionone, and comments on the want of exactness in the experiments carried out by these witnesses. For instance, it is pointed out that there is considerable difference between "heating several hours," which is ordinarily assumed to mean boiling

for about five hours, and "heating of the mass and letting the acid act during sixty-four hours." As the patentee clearly had at the time a reason for prescribing "several hours'" heating, it is impossible that a process of prolonged heating extending over days could be covered by the patent, and the lower Courts had not grasped the patent correctly if they considered a process so widely differing from the directions given in the specification was covered by the patent. The Reichsgericht further held that the possibility is not excluded by the experts' reports that artificial oil of violets may be something totally different from the "ionone" described by the patentee or from the isomeric α and β ionone, of which the patentee subsequently said the patented product was composed. On this point the objections taken by the defendants to the different boiling-points of the fractions of the intermediate product used for further treatment, and altogether the cost of manufacture, must be seriously taken into consideration in deciding what is covered by the patent, and what is subsequent and independent invention, and although a part of the process may be apparently identical, if products of different character are obtained, they may be considered independent inventions. The reasons given by the Judges of the Reichsgericht are very clear and of great importance, and the further developments of the case will certainly be awaited with the greatest interest, the more so as the German Courts have not often hitherto allowed a patent to be read strictly as a document intended to give all necessary information known at the time of filing the patent to the inventor, in order to enable another person to carry out the invention successfully, but have often allowed a specification to be read in the light of subsequent research and advanced knowledge and experience.

P. O. PROMPTITUDE.

In a letter to one of the London morning papers this week Messrs. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, wholesale druggists, Bishopsgate Street Without, relate how they posted on May 25 last a parcel of goods to a German correspondent. The parcel was destroyed in transit by a fire which broke out on board the mail-boat. Messrs. H., P. & K. sent a claim to the Post Office for its value on July 13, 1900, and beyond a letter of acknowledgment received no further reply until January 11, 1901, when they were informed that "in reply to your letter of July 13, 1900," their application could not be acceded to. The Bishopsgate Street firm dryly returned thanks to the P. O. officials for their prompt answer to their communication of six months ago.

ARSENIC IN BEER.

We briefly reported in our last issue, page 72, some evidence given at the Coroner's inquiry at Manchester regarding the death of a patient who is supposed to have died from the results of drinking beer containing arsenic. Mr. John Nicholson, chairman of the firm who supplied Messrs. Bostock, glucose-manufacturers, with sulphuric acid, stated in evidence that it is many years since his firm has made vitriol from brimstone; they make it from pyrites, and it appeared that two kinds are made—one well known to contain arsenious acid and the other free. The Coroner adjourned the inquiry in order that the originals of certain documents might be produced, upon which hangs the ground of action by Messrs. Bostock against Messrs. Nicholson. Messrs. Bostock, it will be remembered, say that they bought and specified brimstone-vitriol, and they are asking for 100,000/. Meanwhile we note with satisfaction that a Royal Commission, consisting of Lord Kelvin, Sir W. Hart-Dyke, Sir W. S. Church, M.D., Professor T. E. Thorpe, Mr. H. Cosmo Emsor, and Dr. B. A. Whitelegge, with Dr. G. S. Buchanan, Local Government Board, as Secretary, to ascertain,

with respect to England and Wales, the amount of recent exceptional sickness and death attributable to poisoning by arsenic, whether such exceptional sickness and death have been due to arsenic in beer or in other articles of food or drink, and if so to what extent, by what ingredients, or in what manner arsenic was conveyed, and in what way any such ingredients became arsenicated, and, if it is found that exceptional sickness and death have been due to arsenic in beer or in other articles of food or drink, by what safeguards the introduction of arsenic therein can be prevented.

A TIMELY TREATISE.

In connection with the foregoing paragraph we may state here that we have read from cover to cover a book just published by Messrs. Baillière, Tindall & Cox on "Arsenical Poisoning in Beer-drinkers," by Dr. T. N. Kelynack, M.R.C.P., Medical Registrar of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and Mr. William Kirkby, F.L.S., Lecturer in Pharmacognosy in the Owens College, Manchester. It gives a most interesting account of the extent and duration of arsenical poisoning recently observed in Manchester. As yet the total number of cases can only be estimated, and the figures are by no means conclusive, but in Manchester alone at least 2,000 cases have come under observation. Part II. of the book gives accounts of typical cases of peripheral neuritis which have been observed, and it is astonishing as one reads to find how a mere trace of arsenic in beer—less, indeed, than the usual medicinal dose—has sufficed to produce most alarming symptoms, and even death. In nearly every instance some change in the integument has been noticed, the skin of the soles of the feet becoming hard and scaling off, and the skin of other parts of the body scaling and cracking, and in many instances, especially in the case of women, there has been marked darkening of the skin and pigmentation. The wasting-away of patients is not the least remarkable symptom. Part III. of the book is devoted to the chemical side of the matter, and in this Mr. Kirkby mentions that although arsenic has never been returned as a constituent of beer in the Somerset House reports, Dr. Winter Blyth mentions in his work on "Foods" that it is a possible contamination owing to the presence of arsenic in glucose through the use of arsenical sulphuric acid. Mr. Kirkby fully details all the tests for the detection of arsenic, and gives a table of analytical results adduced from the analyses of beers, porters, stouts, &c.; glucose also receives consideration, and the book is completed with a bibliography of the subject, from which we observe Bird's and Dowdard's observations have been omitted. The book is published at 3s. 6d.

WHERE DOES ARSENIC NOT EXIST ?

This is a question which will have to be answered some time soon, for it seems most difficult to be sure that anything which has gone through a chemical process is free from arsenic, unless special pains have been taken to get rid of it. We hear local authorities have recently purchased samples of borax from chemists, doctors, and grocers, and as the result of analyses all the vendors, with one exception, have been summoned under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts for selling an impure article. The Public Analyst has found arsenic in the specimens to the extent of from $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ gr per lb., and even the borax of the vendor who was not summoned contained a trace, but so little that the authorities would not risk a prosecution.

COOPERS HILL.

Authorities are now beginning to wake up to the significance of the dismissal of certain members of the staff of the Royal Engineering College at Coopers Hill, as mentioned in the *C. & D.* a fortnight since. Lord Kelvin, amongst others, has written to the *Times* protesting against the abrupt dismissal, and calling for the reconsideration of the whole

matter by the Secretary of State for India. *Nature* of last week practically lays the blame at the door of the President of the College, Col. J. W. Ottley, whose name appears for the first time in the College "Calendar" for 1899 and 1900. Our contemporary states that the present action appears to be in direct opposition to the former recommendations of the Board of Visitors, and appeals to men of science and learning to endeavour to make, either by deputation or by memorial, a representation to the India Office with a view to full consideration of the whole matter.

DEADLY SERUM.

The use of diphtheria serum is likely to receive a severe check in Italy. The Serotherapeutic Institute of Milan made a batch of the serum on November 24, into which the tetanus bacillus was accidentally introduced. The result has been that eight persons on whom the serum was used have met with horrible deaths from tetanus. The Institute has been closed by the Prefect, the stocks of serum destroyed, and steps taken to recall the supplies in the hands of dealers. The accident has caused somewhat of a scare amongst the public and the medical profession in Italy, and, it is thought, may check the use of the serum in other countries as well.

Marriages.

MILLER—PARRIS.—At the parish church, Hampstead, on December 26, by the Rev. M. G. Tracy, M.A., Arthur Miller, chemist and druggist, late of Bassenthwaite, Cumberland, now of 726 High Street, Lewisham, to Emmie Ruth, widow of Thomas Parris, of Hove, Brighton.

PETRIE—MOORE.—At Holy Trinity Church, Stirling, on January 8, by the Rev. C. L. Coldwell, M.A., assisted by the Rev. J. Petrie, B.A. (father of the bridegroom), the Rev. F. H. Petrie, M.A., rector of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, to Jeanie, youngest daughter of Mr. W. J. Moore, Swiss Villa, Stirling.

WARNEFORD—ANDERSON.—At St. Stephen's Church, Lewisham, by the Rev. Canon Brameld, Frederick Warneford, of Bulawayo, Rhodesia, to Annie, eldest daughter of the late Mr. H. Anderson, Lewisham. Mr. Warneford was for some time associated with Mr. H. T. Doble, chemist, King William's Town, and afterwards was at the Gwelo Hospital. When war broke out he resigned his appointment at the hospital, and volunteered for the front as a medical orderly. He was mentioned in the South African journals for his plucky assistance whilst working in the open at the relief of Mafeking. He was invalided home last August, suffering from malarial fever.

Deaths.

ELLIS.—On January 15, suddenly, Mr. John Robert Ellis, Burley Mount, Leeds. Aged 29. Interment at New Wortley Cemetery on Saturday, January 19, at 3 o'clock.

Goss.—At his residence, Rock Park, Barnstaple, on January 10, after a troublesome illness, Mr. Samuel Goss, J.P., pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 76. Mr. Goss carried on business for many years in High Street, Barnstaple. Some years ago he was thrown from a horse, with the result that he was rendered permanently lame. He took an active interest in the affairs of the borough, and was a generous supporter of charitable and public institutions. He was a member of the Town Council and an alderman for six years. Mr. Goss was a strong Churchman and a staunch Conservative.

JACOB.—We regret to have to chronicle the death of Dr. Archibald Hamilton Jacob, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., the veteran journalist and eminent oculist, of Dublin, which took place, with brief warning, on January 12. For upwards of thirty-five years Dr. Jacob has had charge of the Irish department of the *Medical Press and Circular*, of which he was joint-proprietor. His outspoken honesty of purpose and the intimate knowledge which he possessed of the medical poor-law service of Ireland, gave great weight to his utterances, and he was the sworn enemy of all jobbery and humbug, from whatever quarter they hailed. Faithful to his principles, he attacked indifferently either friends or foes when their conduct failed to harmonise with his ideas of what was

right and proper, his dominant principle being that the calling of medicine implied, or should imply, culture and refinement. Dr. Jacob was possessed of exceptional clearness of judgment, and expressed his views in terse epigrammatic English. He was a fluent writer and an able speaker, and rendered valuable assistance in all parliamentary affairs, of which he had many years' experience. The Irish Medical Association, which was the creation of his father, Dr. Arthur Jacob, owes its present prosperous condition largely to his fostering care, though on occasion he did not hesitate to purge away its faults. In private life Dr. Jacob was one of the most delightful of companions, full of anecdote, quick at repartee, and hospitable withal. Just to his enemies and faithful to his friends, though he spared not the rod, he was universally esteemed and respected. He was marked out as the most suitable representative of his College on the General Medical Council, but owing to failing health and other circumstances he never occupied that position. He was the most disinterested of men, scorning to intrigue for well-paid posts, and content to do his duty fearlessly, alike in his consulting-room and with his pen. Dr. Jacob was for many years Registrar of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and at the time of his death he occupied the position of Professor of Ophthalmology in the College; he was ophthalmic surgeon to the House of Industry Hospital, and oculist to the Lord Lieutenant. He leaves a wife and large family to mourn his loss.

KINROSS.—At 1 Bright Crescent, Edinburgh, on January 14, Mr. William Kinross, of Lothian, Kinross & Co. Aged 48.

RENTOUL.—News has been received at Clayton, near Bradford, of the death at sea of Dr. Robert Rentoul, who had been in practice at that village as a surgeon for the past fifteen years, and was on his way to Rangoon, where he had been appointed to act as representative of a firm of manufacturing chemists. The deceased gentleman was 46 years of age, and was the son of the late Rev. Alexander Rentoul, of Maun Cunningham, Ireland.

SPENCE.—On January 2, Mr. George Spence, Newcastle-on-Tyne, chemist and druggist. Aged 31.

STEAD.—On January 7, at 241 Camden Road, N., Mr. John Mason Stead, pharmaceutical chemist, in his 84th year. The deceased gentleman was formerly a partner in the firm of Hodgkinsons, Stead & Treacher (now Hodgkinsons, Clarke & Ward), 101 Whitecross Street, E.C. He was a Yorkshireman, and after serving his apprenticeship in his native county he came up to London to take an engagement with a Mr. Crafton, of Croydon. In 1838 he was engaged by Messrs. Hodgkinson & Tonge, and after a year or so he commenced travelling for his firm in the West of England. In 1849 he was admitted a partner, the style of the firm being changed to Hodgkinson, Tonge & Stead. In 1852 he relinquished travelling in order to assist in the administration of the business at Whitecross Street, and retired in 1887 in favour of Mr. Frank Clarke. Mr. Stead was a popular favourite on the road and made many friends. In our recent interview with Mr. John Thompson, he said: "I remember Mr. Stead as a fine, handsome, young man, with very black hair, which won for him the sobriquets of 'Handsome Jack' and 'Black Jack.' Mr. Stead did me many a good turn later on when I met him as a traveller." Mrs. John M. Stead survives her husband. The firm with which Mr. Stead was connected is one of the oldest in the drug-trade, its origin dating back to 1762, when Chamberlain & Rugg carried on a wholesale drug-business in Bride Lane, Fleet Street. The first Hodgkinson joined the firm there, when it became Rugg & Hodgkinson. We next hear of them at Upper Thames Street, where a Mr. Brandram joined the firm. The next change was when Mr. Francis Stead was taken in as a partner, the firm becoming known as Hodgkinson, Brandram & Stead. There the connecting-link is lost, as the firm unfortunately lost all their records by a disastrous fire some eighteen years ago. On the Queen's accession the firm was composed of Francis Stead, George Tonge, John Hodgkinson, and Richard Hodgkinson. The present partners of the firm are Charles Hodgkinson, Mr. Frank Clarke, and Mr. J. Slinger Ward. It is interesting to recall the fact that Mr. George Tonge, the "father of the drug-trade" (he was born in 1807), was formerly a partner in the Whitecross Street firm, and is still living in retirement.

Winter Session.

Notices of meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." If meetings are not attended by reporters, secretaries of associations would oblige by communicating with the Editor.

Society of Arts.

MR. H. SNOWDEN WARD read a paper before the Society on Wednesday evening, January 15 on

"PHOTOGRAPHY OF NATURAL COLOURS

by the McDonough-Joly Method." Sir W. De W. Abney was in the chair.

The process is the one which is fairly well known in this country as Joly's, and consists of taking the photographs through a taking-screen ruled with alternate orange, bluish-green, and blue lines, 300 to the inch, and viewing the finished transparency bound up with another ruled screen to correspond exactly with the impressions received on the negative through the taking-screen. It appears that Dr. Joly (Dublin), Mr. McDonough, and Mr. McFarlane Anderson, working independently, evolved the same idea at about the same time. The process had been foreshadowed years before by Louis Ducos du Hauron. The three inventors, although working on similar lines, vary the details. Joly uses 240 lines to the inch, McDonough 300, whilst Anderson endeavoured to replace the coloured light-filter with a black-and-white screen—a process which has the disadvantage of requiring three exposures. The McDonough process requires the use of a light-filter, called a "chromatic-balance shutter," on the lens to cut out more or less of the blue rays, according to the amount of sun and shade. The shutter is like an iris diaphragm, the segments being made of tinted mica. As regards the cost of the viewing-screens, with present machinery they can be produced at about 8*d.* each ($4 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ size), but with factory conditions it is thought that they may be made for 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a dozen. The exposure required is roughly about five times that suggested by Watkins for the slowest isochromatic plate; with the Watkin meter the plate number would be 2.

The discussion brought out some interesting points. Sir HENRY TRUCEMAN WOOD thought the process might eventually be of service to amateur photographers, and that the lecturer had not given sufficient credit to Dr. Joly for his part of the invention. The McDonough patent of 1892 was for coloured dots, not for lines. Dr. Joly showed and worked his process before the Royal Society, Dublin, in 1895.

MR. CREWDSON, who is connected with the McDonough company, explained the method of ruling the screens.

The CHAIRMAN was glad the different patentees' claims had not to be decided. He explained that the inks for the taking and viewing screens were of different colours, and understood that great difficulties were found in getting inks of proper depths. His experience was that the screens faded after a little use.

MR. SNOWDEN WARD, in reply, said the defects which some of the speakers had noticed in the lantern-slides shown were probably due to the fact that the rulings were not yet perfect. There was also, he confessed, a tendency to over-emphasise the reds of a subject.

After the customary votes of thanks, samples of process-work printed on ruled paper were handed round; also some gelatino-chloride prints. The latter were done on paper which was ruled in coloured lines before coating with the sensitive emulsion; the colour, however, was not very apparent.

Society of Chemical Industry.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

A MEETING of this Section was held at the Victoria Hotel on January 11. Dr. Grossman presided. There was a large attendance.

ARSENICAL BEER.

MR. A. W. DUNCAN communicated the particulars of a sample of beer containing a very large quantity of arsenic.

Two of the brews had been made from Messrs. Bostock's sugar on September 4 and 14, only one of which was probably used. About the end of October the brewer of this particular ale became aware that the brew did not agree with his customers, so on November 3 he took five samples from different brews to a Liverpool analytical chemist for analysis. On November 7 he received a certificate which stated, in a footnote, "antimony, lead, tin, and other poisonous metals absent. Arsenic also absent." Dr. William Latham, of Ashton-in-Makerfield, had reason to suspect the beer. The brewer, hearing of this, asked the doctor to take and forward samples to an analyst. On November 15 he (Mr. Duncan) received a sample of mixed beer from Dr. Latham, containing equal parts of five kinds, with the request that he would examine for poisons, particularly for lead, antimony, and tin. None of these metals could be found, but on Saturday, November 17, arsenic was discovered by Marsh's test. Mr. Duncan, not knowing the urgency of the case, and wishing to repeat and confirm his tests, waited until November 19, when he reported to Dr. Latham, the quantity being stated at about $\frac{1}{16}$ gr. per pint. It was on November 18 that Dr. Reynolds found arsenic by Reinsch's test, and on the 18th he communicated this to Dr. Dixon Mann. The brewer maintained that Dr. Latham and Mr. Duncan were the first to discover the cause of the epidemic, and Mr. Duncan exhibited the letters and analysis to some of the medical staff of the Manchester Royal Infirmary before Dr. Reynolds's report came in. The first estimate of the arsenic was only a rough one by comparison with standard arsenical deposits. An accurate quantitative analysis by weighing the arsenic deposit showed 1.7 gr. per gal. of arsenious oxide.

MR. SHEARER said about the beginning of December he tested some hydrochloric acid and found it, if not absolutely free from arsenic, sufficiently free for use; but, on testing it about three weeks afterwards, to his surprise found a considerable amount of arsenic in it. He had not found that sulphuric acid acted in the same way. He thought it well if chemists would test hydrochloric acid if kept in bottle for any length of time.

The CHAIRMAN: Arsenic will be found in it if kept standing for some time.

PATENT LAW.

Two papers were read on this subject, one by Mr. C. D. ABEL, and the other by Mr. LEVINSTEIN. Mr. I. Levinstein mentioned that Mr. C. D. Abel had been laid up for some time, and could not be present. Mr. Abel's paper was a criticism on Mr. Levinstein's paper (*C. & D.*, April 14, 1900 page 617), and Mr. Levinstein's present paper was a rejoinder. Mr. Levinstein's views are well known. He recommends that in all patents which cannot be defined by drawings, an applicant shall be permitted to only claim in one patent one single substance or compound, and if demanded by the Patent Office he shall deposit samples or specimens of his invention, and each article shall be marked "Patented," and so sold by each patentee with the number or reference to the patent under which the article has been manufactured, and if the patented article consists of a mixture of which only a part is patented, it shall be so stated. He holds that the German patent laws are superior to the English laws. If his recommendations were adopted he claimed that Section 22 would be assisted, Section 18 amended, litigation and search simplified, the security of a patent increased, and the public would readily know what the patentee had patented.

THE DISCUSSION.

The CHAIRMAN said the subject was of great importance and also highly controversial. They had come to the almost unanimous agreement that they should have their patent laws reformed in some direction. The difficulties, however, which stood in the way were enormous. Before 1871 Germany consisted of independent states, each with its own laws. After 1871 the States became amalgamated, and it became possible to have one patent law for the whole of Germany. In 1877, when the war was over, Germany started with a clean sheet and started in the right way. If they could have the alterations which had been suggested, it was appalling to think of the legislation it would lead to during the next fifteen years.

MR. J. H. BUTTERWORTH, barrister, and a lecturer on

patent laws, said the law of the country could create a right. Taking the land laws as the basis for argument, why could they not in the matter of patents have a search back, say for fifty years? Anything further back should be taken no notice of. The Government might undertake the fifty years and give the inventor a guarantee.

Mr. HEYS read a speech recently delivered by the President of the German Patent Office, in which he said that they hoped to grant more than 50 per cent. of the applications for patents in future. Many of the patents applied for were valueless. The limit in Germany was 100 years. If a man was making and working an invention at the time a patent was applied for, he was entitled to continue to work it.

Mr. E. HELM said if Mr. Abel's paper had been read before any statistical society in the country, it would have received a very severe and hostile handling. It was the commonest form of the misuse of statistics to take the figures of one year, and use them as averages, and he showed the fallacy of Mr. Abel's paper in that respect. The difference between the patent laws of this country and Germany operated to the serious disadvantage of the British people.

Mr. GRIMSHAW agreed that patents were supposed to be for the benefit of the trade of the country, the second person to be benefited being the inventor and the tradesman who used it. The difficulty was that in this country patents seemed to exist in great part for the benefit of the lawyer, and a Government department did not like to be irritated. Time after time statements as to reform were made by responsible men and no notice was taken of them.

Mr. BUTTERWORTH said there ought to be a separate court, presided over by a special judge, dealing with compulsory licences. In the Commercial Court the whole proceedings were simplified. Cases were expedited. That was what they wanted in reference to patent cases.

Mr. LEVINSTEIN briefly replied on the debate. They had been very pleasant, and all practically agreed with him. He knew there were many patentees who were not inventors. A patent was a monopoly, but they had to get something in return for it. This was a free country, but a patent was an exception. We put our laws aside to benefit the inventor.

The meeting then adjourned.

Grimsby and District Chemists' and Druggists' Association.

At a meeting of this Association, held at the Oberon Hotel, Grimsby, on January 8, the draft Pharmacy Bill was considered by the members, and the following alterations suggested:—

Clause 1.—Instead of "poisons" the word "medicines" should be substituted.

Clause 3.—"Poisons" altered to "medicines," as in Clause 1.

Clause 4.—"For each day that he remains a director" is suggested as an addition.

Clause 5.—As printed, with the following addition:—"That every corporate body acting as chemist and druggist shall notify to the Registrar within seven days any change in the directorate; failing this it shall be liable to a penalty of 20*l.* for each and every offence."

The two remaining clauses, as well as Clause 2, were approved as suggested in the Council's draft.

Sheffield Chemists and the Pharmacy Bill.

A MEETING was held in Sheffield on January 14 for the purpose of considering

THE DRAFT PHARMACY BILL.

The attendance was rather small. Mr. J. B. Pater presided, those present including Messrs. G. Squire, J. F. Eardley, J. Dale, H. Watts, P. Carr, J. F. Carr, J. W. J. Turner, C. Dann, F. W. Whitworth, and H. Antcliffe. Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme in a letter expressed regret that he could not be present, and said the additions made to the Bill on the previous Wednesday by the Council would doubtless commend themselves to the meeting. He hoped the meeting would give strong support to the draft Bill.

The CHAIRMAN thought they would all agree that the draft Bill did more than any other attempt in recent years to give pharmacists some protection. Some people

objected to it on the ground that it would still allow companies to trade. In his opinion it would not be possible to get a Bill through Parliament nowadays to stop company-trading. A great point in the Bill was that it aimed at protection of their title, and no sane man would deny the right of chemists to be protected as registered members of a calling. The Bill did not contain all they would like to see, but it was the outcome of a spirit of give and take. Referring to Clause 4, he only wished that such a provision as it embodied might be made law, but he had grave doubts that it would pass through Parliament. Therefore he suggested that it would be better to give up Clause 4 than risk the whole Bill being rejected.

Mr. ANTCLIFFE then proposed a resolution in support of the Bill, and pointed out the danger of including Clause 4. Mr. C. F. CARR seconded.

Mr. SQUIRE thought the Society would have done better by testing the question whether companies were legally using the title of chemists than in promoting a Bill. He denied that the question ever had been properly settled. In his opinion there was sufficient in the Act of 1868 to enable the Society to win an action on this point, and, if necessary, he would carry the matter to the House of Lords. Such a course would cost less than the Bill and do away with its necessity. They would get nothing out of the Bill except the title, and as to this they were as well off now as they would be when the Bill was passed.

Mr. DANN dissented from the opposition to Clause 4, and moved an amendment that the two portions of the resolution be discussed separately. Mr. DALE seconded. After some criticism upon several points in the Bill, the resolution was carried by about two to one.

North Staffs Chemists' Association.

THE Association met at the Roebuck Hotel, Stoke, on January 10, the President (Mr. J. Averill, J.P.) in the chair. Among those present were Mr. W. Oldham, J.P. (Burslem), Mr. W. Morson (Stafford), Mr. T. C. Cornwell (Hanley), Mr. Edmund Jones, Mr. Weston Poole, Mr. T. Charles (Burslem), Mr. J. B. Beades and Mr. W. Hartley (Creech), and Mr. T. Bentley, Mr. T. Bottomley, and Mr. W. E. Metcalfe (Hanley).

The SECRETARY (Mr. E. Jones) having read the minutes of the last meeting, announced that in accordance with a resolution passed at a former meeting he waited upon Mr. W. Oldham, J.P., and informed him of the resolution unanimously passed with regard to the Divisional Secretaryships. Mr. Oldham ultimately consented to undertake the duties of the office, to which he has since been appointed.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated Mr. Oldham on his appointment to the Commission of the Peace.

The company joined in the congratulations, and drank Mr. Oldham's health in a bumper.

Mr. OLDHAM, J.P., briefly thanked the Chairman and company.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing consideration of

THE DRAFT PHARMACY BILL,

suggested that they should discuss it clause by clause. Though in some respects the Bill might probably be improved, he thought that on the whole it had been drawn up after a great deal of thought, and not without some amount of compromise by the members of the Council. As far as he could judge, the Bill was as much as they could expect, and it was probably as much as was likely to become law. If it received the Royal consent they would have their titles protected, and by that means he hoped every chemist and druggist in the country would benefit. (Hear, hear.) He suggested that in the first clause of the Bill, after the words "compounding of poisons" the words "or in the compounding or preparing of physicians' prescriptions" should be added.

The SECRETARY, Mr. WESTON POOLE, Mr. OLDHAM, and others supported this suggestion, and a motion recommending the Pharmaceutical Council to so amend the clause was adopted. [As the Council had altered the clause the day before, we omit the Staffordshire arguments.—EDITOR.]

The CHAIRMAN then read the second clause preventing corporate bodies using titles, and explained, in reply to Mr. Blades, that many companies had called themselves

chemists. He took it that, if this Bill passed, they would be allowed no longer to call themselves chemists, but he saw nothing to prevent them saying "So & So's Drug-stores."

The SECRETARY thought that any company assuming the title of drug-company was misleading to the public, as it implied druggist. He suggested that in the second clause after the words, "any Act amending those Acts," the following might be added:—

Or assuming traditional appearances, or using terms, or assuming appearances calculated to mislead the public, or leading the public into the belief that they were chemists and druggists.

He knew several cash drug-stores that had all the appearances of chemists' shops, and people believed they were chemists. He thought something ought to be done to put a stop to that.

Mr. CHARLES thought the suggestion was good, but he did not believe in overloading the Bill. They ought to go in for what they had a reasonable chance of obtaining. These people had called their premises drug-stores for twenty years, and they had practically the right of custom.

The SECRETARY observed that if that custom had been wrong, there was no reason why it should not be put right.

Mr. WESTON POOLE said they must remember in passing the second clause that they were sacrificing a great principle. They should make up their minds to it that, in future, they would not be able to consider their qualification a professional one. The only stipulation they could make was that the men who did the work should be qualified. He supposed that a corporate body meant a number of persons like a limited-liability company, not a number of persons whether limited or not.

Mr. OLDHAM said a corporate body meant two and upwards. Without further comment the second clause was passed on the motion of Mr. CORNWELL, seconded by Mr. OLDHAM.

On the proposition of the SECRETARY, seconded by Mr. CHARLES, Clause 3 was confirmed without comment.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, according to Clause 4, the directors of a corporate body must be registered persons. That was an advantage to them as properly-qualified men.

Mr. WESTON POOLE thought a director ought to have a substantial stake in a company, and be not merely a bogus director. A lot of these people would be simply nominees fulfilling the law. The people having the real interest in the concern and reaping the profits would be unqualified people. He would like to ask, "Ought not these directors to have a substantial stake in the company?"

The SECRETARY did not think they could reasonably ask for any stipulated sum or shares; and with that the clause was confirmed.

Referring to Clause 5, dealing with registration of shops, the CHAIRMAN said the onus of being registered should be thrown upon the individual keeper of the shop or the proprietor.

Mr. OLDHAM remarked that the Registrar had said he would no longer write to the people who did not communicate with him year by year. He (the Registrar) would hold them responsible. Clauses 5 and 6 were confirmed without further objection.

When Clause 7 came up for discussion the CHAIRMAN said he did not think it would do away with the three-years'-apprenticeship system, and would be sorry if it did.

The SECRETARY said he was glad to see that the Society were seeking powers for the division of the Minor examination. He had always held a strong opinion about that. With regard to the "evidence of systematic training in a public University or kindred institutions," he hoped "kindred institutions" would include technical schools. He would like to have a more clear understanding that certificates of competency from advanced classes at technical schools would be accepted by the Society. He was in favour of making it convenient for the young men to obtain tuition in his immediate locality. Some of them had, no doubt, read the correspondence of Mr. Sidney Plowman, a distinguished member of the Pharmaceutical Society, who gave it as his opinion that the examinations in Australia were as difficult as those in this country. In the face of such expressions he could not see that the Society could refuse to accept the certificates of any of the examining boards of the colonies. It was the spirit of federation that he appre-

ciated. The more they extended kindly consideration to the colonies the more, in his opinion, were they likely to combine the colonies with the Mother Country. He was very glad that powers were being sought for the purpose of establishing a by-law at some future date, by which the certificates of the colonies would be accepted for the registration or membership of the Society in England.

Mr. CHARLES supposed the colonies would accept English certificates, and thus give a *quid pro quo*.

The CHAIRMAN said he expected they would.

Mr. MORSON said the technical schools were going ahead rapidly. In Stafford they had a splendid school, and four or five rooms fitted up with the latest appliances. If apprentices would only study at these classes there would be no reason to go to London. (Hear, hear.) The clause was then confirmed.

Mr. OLDHAM, speaking generally, said the main object of the Bill seemed to be to legalise companies. He could not help thinking that the Pharmaceutical Society had gone the wrong way to work about the business. He thought they should have tried a test case as to whether it was illegal for drug companies to assume that title.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the Association approves of the draft Pharmaceutical Bill as a whole, but would recommend that the various clauses, where necessary, include the dispensing of physicians' and surgeons' prescriptions. Mr. OLDHAM seconded, and the proposition was unanimously agreed to.

THANKS TO THE C. & D.

The SECRETARY pointed out that it was owing to the kindness of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST that he was able to place before them copies of the draft Pharmacy Bill. The proprietors of that journal had, on application, sent him a liberal supply, and the sheets, he felt sure, had been very much appreciated.

The CHAIRMAN also spoke in appreciative terms of the kindness of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST in taking the trouble to circulate so many copies of the Bill.

The Association as a body expressed their thanks for the copies of the Bill.

Mr. W. E. Metcalfe (Hanley) was elected a member of the Association. Before leaving the CHAIRMAN wished all the members a "Happy New Year." This was all the business.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

AT the meeting held at 36 York Place on Wednesday, January 9, notes on bacteria were read by Mr. E. L. MIDDLETON, and Mr. RUTHERFORD HILL explained the sources of the arsenical contamination of beer, and demonstrated the methods adopted for its detection and estimation in glucose and beer. He also showed a ready means of preparing SO₂ and illustrating its action as a bleaching-agent, a ready means of preparing, measuring, and exploding oxygen and hydrogen in molecular proportions, and exhibited some interesting microscopic sections illustrating vegetable histology.

Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held in the Metropole Hotel on January 9, Mr. G. F. Merson, in the absence of the President, being in the chair. There was only a moderate attendance in view of the importance of the matter for consideration, viz.:—

THE DRAFT PHARMACY BILL.

Lack of numbers was, however, compensated for by the keen interest evinced and animation displayed in the discussion. Generally the Bill was approved, but a strong feeling existed that the dispensing of physicians' prescriptions should be included in the text. (This has now been done.) As it was felt that in the time at the meeting's disposal it was impossible to fully consider the whole of the clauses, there were no resolutions passed or vote taken, the

meeting standing adjourned till an early future date, on which the discussion will be resumed.

At a later Council-meeting arrangements were completed for holding a meeting of the Association at South Shields with a view to stimulating the interests and enlisting the further support of pharmacists in that locality, some of whom are at present members of the local Association. The Draft Bill will be considered at this meeting which is to be held on January 23, at 8.15 in the Congregational Hall, Osborne Road, South Shields.

A letter was read from Mr. F. Gilderdale, Hon. Secretary of the Association, resigning office, and Mr. Wm. Atkins, Raby Street, Newcastle, agreed, pending a formal election to the post, to discharge the secretarial duties in the meantime.

Bradford Chemists' Association.

At a meeting of this Association on January 15 Mr. H. G. ROGERSON gave a lecture and exhibition of lantern-slides illustrating the development of lantern-work. There was a good attendance, and the lecture was much appreciated. Mr. Rogerson described and illustrated the various processes which had been adopted during the last forty years, and concluded by showing some fine samples of the Woodbury process. At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Rogerson.

Festivities.

GLASGOW CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' ASSISTANTS' AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

This Association held a New Year's *conversazione* in the Institute, Scott Street, on January 9. Probably on account of the holidays there was a smaller attendance than is usual at these socials. Mr. J. P. Gilmour (President) acted as M.C., and dancing was carried on with much energy and zest until 2 A.M. During the evening there was an abundant service of light refreshments, and in the intervals a most enjoyable entertainment of songs and readings was given by the Misses Mitchell and C. Angus (gold medallist contralto), and Messrs. Currie (President of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association), Hutchinson (gold medallist baritone), Duncan, Hannah, and Gilmour. All the arrangements reflected great credit upon the *Conversazione* Committee, and in particular upon the indefatigable Treasurer, Mr. Sturgeon.

By a change in the syllabus the speaker at the next fortnightly meeting on January 23 will be Mr. T. Maben, F.C.S., who is to read a paper on "Standardised Preparations." A large representation of members, students, and the trade is expected on that occasion.

C.A.U. SMOKER.

At the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, W., on January 10, the members of the Chemists' Assistants' Union and a number of their friends and patrons had another of their pleasant reunions. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. H. Solomon, and the proceedings were characterised by that *bonhomie* and good-fellowship which are a feature of these meetings. The programme contained several good items. The first song was contributed by Mr. Lawrence, a member of the C.I.V., who was wounded in South Africa, and who met with cordial appreciation for his rendering of "The Promise." Other serious songsters were Messrs. Ernest Hay, Wilkinson, and Nead, while the whimsicalities of Mr. Wild, sen. (who gave a quaint rendering of an Irish ballad), and his son, who are old favourites at C.A.U. smokers, were much enjoyed. Messrs. E. Whineray and Strother also contributed to the laughter of the evening, while Mr. Cassalis most acceptably twanged the tuneful banjo. A handy and nicely-printed little *brochure* setting forth the history, aims, and objects of the Union was being given away to all comers, and will doubtless tend to increased membership.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

An inaugural smoking-concert of this Association was held in the Marchioness of Bute Hotel, Cardiff, on January 9.

The chair was occupied by Mr. J. W. Cooper (President), and all the members of the Association were present, together with many of their friends—about seventy in all. The programme, which is a lengthy one, in which the comic element predominates, shows that the Association know at least how to organise a smoker. The proceedings were extremely enjoyable throughout, and towards the close of the evening the chairman in a few remarks urged the claims of the Association upon all assistants. The concert was arranged under the direction of Messrs. Davis and Tyrer, who deserve especial thanks.

AN "ALLENBURYS" CONCERT.

The "Allenburys" Cricket Club held a Bohemian concert on January 14 in the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, E.C. Mr. W. Hustler was in the chair, and was supported by the President and Vice-President of the club. The room was rather uncomfortably crowded, this annual fixture being noted for the quality of the programme. Mr. H. Burney was musical director, and contributed a musical sketch on the piano. The artists included Miss Maude Ballard, who sang "At my window" and "For all eternity"; Madame Florence Croft, with "Genevieve"; Mr. Fred Ward, with "Love, could I only tell thee" and "The night has a thousand eyes"; Mr. Walter Gunn sang "Blow, blow, thou winter winds"; Mr. Heyner, "In the shade of the palm" and "Admiral Tom." The humorous element was supplied by Mr. Wilson James and Mr. Will Edwards. A fine performance on the handbells was contributed by Mr. Will Cornish, the pieces played being "Alice, where are thou?" and "When we are married." Mr. Reginald Bellew acted as accompanist.

THE CHEMISTS' BALL.

The thirty-fifth annual chemists' ball was given on Wednesday at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, and the change of *venue* from the Portman Rooms appears to have acted as a stimulus, inciting old and young to indulge anew in terpsichorean revelry. The attendance left nothing to be desired, and comprised pretty well all the personages of eminence in the pharmaceutical world, together with many others whose capacity for enjoyment appeared in no wise diminished by the fact that they were not likely to be called upon to speechify later in the evening. In accordance with precedent the utmost decorum prevailed, and it was not until Bacchus had escorted Terpsichore, wreathed in smiles, back from the supper-room, that professional sobriety of demeanour began to yield itself up to the influence of the rollicking music, and dancers displayed extra-pharmaceutical agility. What hath night to do with sleep when beauty (metaphorically) beckons? Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme presided at the supper, which was served at separate tables, an innovation which was not universally approved. The President proposed the toast of the evening, in the sense that it was the only toast—*eg.*, "The Chemists' Ball and the Ladies." He pointed out that this particular *fête* marked an epoch in the history of pharmaceutical festivity, in that it was the first of the century. [What of Plymouth?] He insisted on the important significance which justified their associating ladies with pharmacy, their influence being paramount everywhere. The Secretary, Mr. Ernest W. Hill, having responded with a jest on "the scent of the century," the company returned by mutual consent to the ball-room, where the greatest enthusiasm prevailed until rather later than the early hours of the morning. Among those present we noticed Mr. J. W. Bowen, Mr. R. Bremridge, Mr. Carteighe, Mr. A. J. Phillips, and Mr. J. C. Umney.

SIMPLE METHOD TO STERILISE MILK.—Put the milk in a clean bottle, inserting the cork loosely. Now place the bottle in a saucepan of cold water and heat slowly until the water boils. Let it boil for one hour, then cork the bottle tightly, and keep in a cool place.

"THE ART OF DISPENSING."—The work is a favourite with working pharmacists, who are able to recognise the extremely practical character of the information on everyday matters, which is presented so lucidly, sententiously and in some instances almost epigrammatically, throughout the volume, and we have no hesitation in recommending so useful a work to the pharmaceutical profession.—*American Druggist*.

January Examinations.

We have received from the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain the following list of persons who submitted themselves for examination at the January meeting of the London Board of Examiners, and who were then granted certificates of competent skill and knowledge and qualification:—

MAJOR.

Davies, David Lewis
Gray, Percy Bunting
Lee, Henry Cuthbert
Parker, William Shepherd

Ritchie, David Frank
Royce, Septimus
Stevens, Harold Blythen

MINOR.

Airey, George Patteson
Audsley, Benjamin
Axford, Frank Stanley
Backler, Charles Edmund
Baker, Albert John Joseph
Bartlett, Henry Walsh
Bowes, John Arnold
Brier, Ernest
Brown, John Gilbert
Brown, Percy John
Buckley, George Herbert
Butterworth, Alfred
Cleasby, William Henry
Constance, Stephen George
Creecraft, Richard Preston
Crooks, Arthur Thomas
Cross, Ernest Llewellyn
Dietzsch, Theodor
Dixon, Ernest Albert
Dupuy, Edwin S.
Evans, Arthur Morgan
Evans, Evan
Fanshawe, Robert Percival
Fletcher, Hartley
Francis, Alan
Francis, Thos. Humer Hanbury
Girling, William Robert
Goggs, Herbert John
Goldthorpe, William Thomas
Goundry, Edward Robert
Gover, Ralph George
Griffiths, Evan
Haigh, William Edwin
Haines, James Hunt
Hall, Albert Tuton
Hammond, Albert
Harris, William Edward
Hartley, Charles Quarumby
Hartley, George
Herbert, Auberon
Hey, Frederick Cooper
Hill, Ernest William
Holden, Wilfred Curtis
Hole, William Westcott
Hughes, Chas. Owen Everett
Hughes, William Henry

Humphreys, Evan Llewelyn
Huxtable, Charles
Hyslop, David Scott
Jackson, Herbert
Johns, Thomas Edgar
Johnson, Herbert
Jones, Arthur Henry
Jones, Maurice
Kemp, Ebenezer
Kenworthy, George
Lemmon, Reginald John
Linnett, Louis John
Mason, Henry Gurney
Masters, Herbert Bazeley
Mathers, Ernest Thomas
Mattock, William Henry
Mellors, George
Moore, William
Ness, Alfred
North, Henry Howard
Oldbury, Thomas Richard
Owen, John Edmund
Palmer, William
Parry, Charles
Peberdy, Tom Cooke
Perry, Wallis Bennett
Pinn, Ernest Henry
Reade, George Paley
Reynolds, Herbert John
Richardson, Thomas Evans
Rickard, Arthur Henry
Sambrook, John Thomas
Sandy, Robert
Saunders, Hugh Francis
Taylor, Charles Lister
Thomas, Arthur Grisdale
Thompson, James William
Tinker, George
Walters, John Thomas
Ward, William John
Webster, Philip
Wilkins, George Sleeman
Williams, David
Williams, Gwilym Ivor
Young, William Tyndale.

DRAYCOTT (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by J. A. Draycott at Walsall, Birmingham, Northampton, and Leamington, and to carry on the business of photographers, manufacturers of photographic and other apparatus and materials, &c. Registered office, 66 New Street, Birmingham.

HANSON BROTHERS (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of soap makers and boilers, oil refiners and extractors, chemists, druggists, glycerin-distillers, grocers, &c. The first directors are G. E. Hanson and T. Hanson. Qualification, 25*l.* Registered office, Royd Mills, Wilsden, near Bradford.

CHEMISTS' CO-OPERATIVE TRADING ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—Capital 6,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with L. Becquet, and to carry on the business of manufacturing, analytical, wholesale and retail chemists, druggists, manufacturing, mechanical, and professional dentists, veterinary surgeons, druggists, manufacturers of surgical, scientific, and other apparatus, &c. The first subscribers are:—I. C. Meacher, 61 Stroud Green Road, N., chemist and dentist; H. J. Moxon, 11 Buckingham Palace Road, London, L.D.S., R.C.S., dental surgeon; L. Becquet, 9 Impasse St.-Jean, Brussels; S. Bertie, 20 Park Street, Stoke Newington, N.; N. Freeth-Bennett, 28 Boswell Road, Thornton Heath, Turkish-bath manager; W. E. Jones, 338 West Green Road, Tottenham, clerk; and E. R. Moon, 61 and 62 Chancery Lane, W.C., accountant. The first directors are not named. Qualification, 50*l.*; remuneration, 60*l.* each per annum, and 66*l.* for the chairman. Registered office, 7 and 8 Southampton Buildings, W.C.

H. J. COOKE & SONS (LIMITED).—Capital 5,500*l.*, in 5,000 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each and 4,000 founders' shares of 2*s.* 6*d.* each. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of prudential veterinary medicines and foods now carried on by H. J. Cooke at Southsea and Portsmouth, Hants, as "H. J. Cooke & Sons," and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, manure-manufacturers, druggists, seedsmen, drug and seed grinders, &c. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—G. Russell, 81-86 Chancery Lane, W.C., law stationer; J. Starey, 37 Cursitor Street, E.C., trade mark agent; A. Williams, 3 Hunter Street, W.C., turf commission-agent; F. O'Connor Prince, 37 Cursitor Street, E.C., C.E.; A. Browne, 9 Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, W.C., patent-agent; W. Everett, 6 Winifred Road, Manor Park, Essex, engineer; and A. E. Vidal, 20 Central Hill, Norwood, law student. The first directors are H. J. Cooke and W. J. Fleming (chairman). Qualification 100*l.* Registered office, 102 Fenchurch Street, E.C.

ROSBACH SPRINGS (LIMITED).—Mr. W. H. Pannell, liquidator of this company, in reply to a shareholder stated that the receiver appointed on behalf of the debenture-holders has not yet been able to dispose of the business or to realise the assets. It is quite uncertain at present, therefore, whether the creditors will be paid in full. Under these circumstances, he says, the shareholders can expect no return, as everything depends upon the result of the realisation now proceeding.

G. B. KENT & SONS (LIMITED).—The report and balance-sheet which have just been issued show that after charging working-expenses, allowing for bad and doubtful debts, depreciations, &c., there is a balance of 13,853*l.* Deducting interest on mortgages and loans, proportion of income-tax, directors' fees, and vendors' share of the profits up to July 13, in lieu of interest on purchase-price, 3,034*l.* is left for division. The board has applied the sum of 539*l.* in writing down goodwill, trade-marks, &c., to 33,000*l.*, and has placed 500*l.* to reserve account, thus leaving a balance of 1,995*l.* This they recommend should be applied to paying a preference dividend of 5½ per cent. (less income-tax), 493*l.*; life directors' fees, 454*l.*; ordinary dividend, 7½ per cent. (less income-tax), 199*l.*; and carrying forward 848*l.* to next year. The profits would have been greater, the report states, but for a serious fire in the factory, which considerably delayed the execution of orders. The plans for the new factory at Hemel Hempstead have been approved, and the building commenced.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED (LIMITED).—The report of the directors for the year ended September 30 states that the profits for the period, after providing for all management and administration expenses, are 272,741*l.*, an increase over those of the previous year. The debenture interest, interest on the loan arranged pending the issue of the balance of the debenture stock, interim dividend and income-tax for the half-year to April 5 amounted to 64,328*l.* leaving, with the

New Companies & Company News.

BATH SUPER-AERATION (LIMITED).—Capital 8,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire from Super-aeration (Limited) the benefit for Bath and district of a licence relating to certain existing inventions for drawing off or dispensing aerated liquids. Registered office, 3 Union Street, Bath.

COMBINATION CORKING-AND-LABELLING MACHINE SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with H. A. Gee, and to carry on the business of manufacturers and repairers of, dealers in, and agents for corking and labelling machines. Registered office, 105 Colmore Row, Birmingham.

ARTHUR SANDERSON & SONS (LIMITED).—Capital 120,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of wall-paper manufacturers, &c., carried on at 51-53 Berners Street, W., as "Arthur Sanderson & Sons," and to carry on the business of paper-hangings manufacturers, oil and colour merchants, varnish-makers, chemical manufacturers, &c. Registered office, 52 Berners Street, Oxford Street, W.

amount brought forward, 214,694*l.* to be dealt with. The sum of 15,000*l.* had been placed to depreciation reserve account and 5,825*l.* to the credit of the debenture stock redemption sinking fund. Of the balance of 193,869*l.* to the credit of profit-and-loss account, after providing for the items above mentioned, the dividend on the preference shares for the six months ended September 30 absorbs 22,000*l.*, and from the balance the directors propose to pay a dividend of 1*l.* 15*s.* per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 17½ per cent. per annum, 105,000*l.*; to place to general reserve, 50,000*l.*; to write off from preliminary expenses, &c., account, 3,510*l.*, and on carry forward 13,360*l.*

PEARSE'S LINIMENT (PRELIMINARY) SYNDICATE (LIMITED)—The flotation of this company formed the subject of a public inquiry on January 14 at the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Hood. The company was formed in October, 1899, with a capital of 6,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares, to acquire the rights in, and to manufacture and sell, a liniment for the cure of rheumatism, gout, and kindred complaints. The accounts filed under the liquidation show a total deficiency to creditors and shareholders of 3,671*l.* Mr. C. L. Baker, questioned by the Official Receiver, stated that he had acted as promoter, vendor, and managing director of the company. By profession he was a medical electrician, and as such he came into communication with chemists and others who had experience of and dealings in liniments and similar preparations. The inventor of the process was Mr. Alfred Pearse, and witness having found it beneficial in his own case, regarded it as one that ought to be put on the market. An agreement was entered into in November, 1898, under which he was to purchase Mr. Pearse's rights in the invention for 300*l.* and 3 per cent. of the share capital of the syndicate. Mr. T. F. Smith advanced 150*l.* towards the preliminary expenses of the syndicate, in return for which he was to receive 250 shares as a bonus, and was appointed to the post of secretary. Witness next agreed in June, 1899, to sell to the syndicate the secret process for the manufacture of the liniment at the price of 3,000*l.*, 1,200*l.* payable in cash and 1,800*l.* in shares. The purchase-price was fixed at that sum, witness having been informed by competent persons that the liniment was a valuable property. The syndicate still owed him a balance of 600*l.* in respect of the cash consideration. The subscription to the share capital only amounted to about 900*l.*, and after paying 600*l.* to witness and discharging some minor expenses, only a small sum remained for working capital. Mr. A. Pearse, the inventor, stated that he was an artist by profession, and all that he had received for the process was 112*l.* 10*s.* in cash and some shares, but he did not enter into the transaction from a monetary point of view. His idea was to benefit humanity by making the liniment known to the public. Other evidence having been taken, the inquiry was closed.

Trade Notes.

"TABLOID" REDUCER.—Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., have produced a "tabloid" potassium ferricyanide, designed to facilitate the preparation of Farmer's reducer used in reducing dense negatives. As is well known, it is necessary to make the solution just before use to get the best results. To make Farmer's reducing-solution all that is required is to dissolve a "tabloid" potassium ferricyanide in 10-per-cent. solution of sodium hyposulphite.

KAY'S COAGULINE.—Messrs. Kay Brothers (Limited), Stockport, are now sending out a small advertising novelty in the shape of two pieces of thick plate-glass, 3 inches square, united together at the corners by means of coaguline. The lower square is mirrored, and the novelty demonstrates to the public the efficiency of this popular cement, and also conveys to the chemist the fact that coaguline sticks far better than the official counterpart—liquor kramerie conc.—without staining the glass.

Foreign Trade in 1900.

THE following table gives particulars of the imports and exports for the year of the articles of interest to the drug and allied trades:—

<i>Imports.</i>				Twelve Months ending December 31	
				1899	1900
Alkali	cwt.	237,761		322,051	
	value, £	133,878		168,158	
Borax	cwt.	60,556		308,407	
	value, £	30,815		155,409	
Brimstone	cwt.	431,218		450,661	
	value, £	101,615		109,048	
Saltpetre	cwt.	248,717		251,928	
	value, £	204,485		214,975	
Unenumerated chemicals (including calcium carbide)	value, £	1,464,817		1,498,624	
Cutch and gambier ...	tons	21,526		19,496	
	value, £	347,025		386,099	
Alizarine	value, £	215,228		186,264	
Aniline and other coal-tar dyes	value, £	493,569		533,824	
Indigo	cwt.	58,977		33,518	
	value, £	926,090		542,089	
Oils—					
Cocoonut	cwt.	458,297		552,743	
	value, £	545,642		687,207	
Olive	tuns	15,939		12,046	
	value, £	553,826		461,084	
Palm	cwt.	945,472		938,350	
	value, £	1,037,265		1,086,555	
Petroleum	gals.	240,147,367		255,852,261	
	value, £	4,574,989		5,574,533	
Seed oil (all kinds) ...	tons	46,416		41,225	
	value, £	879,171		1,036,564	
Turpentine	cwt.	495,808		595,490	
	value, £	809,906		978,943	
Bark, Peruvian	cwt.	33,579		41,108	
	value, £	77,469		92,177	
Gum arabic	cwt.	67,926		82,995	
	value, £	372,587		363,609	
Lac, shellac, &c....	cwt.	108,758		113,074	
	value, £	372,587		363,609	
Paraffin and paraffin-wax	cwt.	1,077,003		984,571	
	value, £	1,011,067		1,337,261	
Drugs, crude	value, £	1,078,537		1,198,950	
Quicksilver	lbs.	3,877,184		2,454,438	
	value, £	415,430		297,243	
Spices:—					
Cinnamon	lbs.	2,770,341		1,650,182	
	value, £	79,433		40,799	
Ginger	cwt.	75,826		55,740	
	value, £	144,080		130,108	
Pepper	lbs.	23,903,914		22,276,020	
	value, £	614,838		611,906	
Unenumerated	lbs.	11,314,715		9,341,727	
	value, £	239,369		213,242	
<i>Exports.</i>					
Alkali	cwt.	3,808,800		3,657,154	
	value, £	1,030,871		1,120,862	
Bleaching materials ...	cwt.	1,300,100		1,270,101	
Copper sulphate...	tons	40,193		42,914	
	value, £	855,225		1,013,594	
Medicines	value, £	1,155,637		1,263,913	
Soap	cwt.	932,700		872,610	
	value, £	941,575		929,647	
Bark, Peruvian	cwt.	31,431		44,326	
	value, £	70,036		115,800	
Borax	cwt.	1,467		19,967	
	value, £	1,256		12,589	
Chemical manufactures and products unenumerated ...	£	217,037		235,742	
Gum arabic	cwt.	37,922		34,375	
	value, £	74,638		66,130	
Quicksilver	lbs.	2,417,987		1,940,241	
	value, £	263,226		237,741	
Saltpetre	cwt.	30,961		31,125	
	value, £	24,449		25,659	



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

Siege-prices.

SIR,—We have just been favoured with a call from Dr. J. De Coninck from Pretoria, who informs us that he has absolutely cleared out every pennyworth of drugs in his large stock, and in doing so mentioned a few items, which would make the English chemist green with envy—namely, 15s. for a bottle of Vichy water; 5s. for a small box of Beecham's pills; other items in proportion.

Yours faithfully,

Britannia Row, N., LORIMER & CO. (LIMITED).
January 14.

Gratuitous Distribution of Poisons.

SIR,—In this week's issue you record the death of a man in Dublin from the effects of an alkaline corrosive coal-tar liquid. The local papers commented on the fact that no clue could be obtained as to where it had been procured. I have reason to think that it was the disinfecting-fluid which the sanitary authorities distribute to houses where infectious disease is reported. I have already treated poisoning from this fluid, and its distribution seems rather lax.

Yours truly,

Dublin, January 12. J. C. MCWALTER.

The Preparations of Ipecacuanha.

SIR,—I omitted to mention in my note on this subject that the sherry used in the experiments had an alcoholic strength of 17.5 per cent. by volume. I agree with Mr. Maben that detannation is a harmless precaution, and have been advocating the use of wine so treated for some months in the notes issued periodically by my firm; but I recorded the facts as I found them. Your correspondents confine their attention to the wine, but it is not less interesting to know that the liquid extract can be kept without deterioration. If I am able to investigate further I will gladly communicate the results obtained, for it is no credit to pharmacy that in a new century we are still groping for light on so old a drug.

Yours faithfully,

Exeter, January 16. H. WIPPELL GADD.

"K" or "C."

SIR,—As cacodylic acid, hitherto famed for its disagreeable odour, is now making its way into pharmacy, it is desirable that it should be spelt with the traditional "c," and not with "k" as has lately been noticed in several quarters. Obviously the latter spelling is copied from the German, but, just as it would appear strange in this country to see cocoa spelt with "k" as in Germany, so it is advisable, to avoid confusion, that the "c" be retained in cacodylic acid and its preparations in conformity with orthography hitherto adopted in English scientific treatises.

Yours truly,

TEUTON. (24/97.)

Iniquitous Cutting.

SIR,—"Beggar-my-neighbour," having been largely "in contact" with chemists, is no doubt a most competent adviser for the many poor suffering ones to rely upon at this critical time. I, therefore, as one at present haling between two opinions, ask him to advise me what to do when a customer (and I have many such) says he can buy a certain patent cheaper by several pence from my neighbouring *confrère*. Does "Beggar-my-neighbour" advise me to expand my chest to its full extent, and scornfully say, "My price is so-and-so"; or does he advise me, with a sorrowful heart, to sell at the same price as that at which he can undoubtedly purchase

it, and hoping the day may come when the same customer may purchase some other item? Yours truly,

ANOTHER BEGGAR. (45/901.)

SIR,—A few days ago I paid a local painter 7s. 2d., of which 4s. 4d. was for time at 9½d. per hour. At the same time I had an order from him for about 3s. 6d. worth of goods, including 1 pint benzolene at 3d., Williams's pink pills 2s. 1d., and something else at the same rate of profit. Is it not time that chemists returned to the old-fashioned way of selling nothing that does not leave a fair profit, or, in other words, cease to stock unprotected articles?

Yours, &c.

NORTH POLE. (45/73.)

The Pharmacy Bill.

SIR,—Having pointed out in my letter published in your issue of December 15 the omission by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of any provision for regulating or controlling the dispensing of prescriptions in the draft Pharmacy Bill, I rejoice to find that now the Council have rectified that omission, and have added to each clause affected the words required, and this feeling I am certain will be shared by every member of the trade. Doubtless we shall be met by the cry of "Monopoly," but let us stand firm now that we have a definite object before us and show the public that this is not a trade question in any sense of the word, but that it is purely a professional one and a question of legal right and justice as regards all registered chemists and druggists—they having gained the position by becoming qualified for this particular work of dispensing prescriptions by training and examination. The question is also one which the public has a right to demand for its own protection. We hear nothing about monopoly as regards the legal, clerical, or medical profession who, like our own members have been duly examined and certified as qualified to perform certain duties in their respective callings, but who, unlike the chemist and druggist, are protected, and rightly so, in the rights and privileges which they have acquired by examination. I feel confident that if the proposed Bill becomes law, and we can rest assured that a qualified man will be employed in every shop where the dispensing and compounding of prescriptions is carried on, that the Pharmaceutical Society will have accomplished one of the best works which they have ever succeeded in doing since the Society was established, and will have provided greater inducements for properly-educated young men to enter our ranks, while there will also be a much brighter prospect for the coming pharmacist. To bring this to a successful issue, however, we must at once close our ranks, and this can only be done by every man in the trade becoming a member of the Pharmaceutical Society before the Bill is brought into the House. If the Society can then show that they have the support of the trade, our demands will be listened to with the respect and attention they deserve, bearing in mind that Parliament is not slow to grant a favourable answer to those who have right and justice on their side. One other question remains which I feel sure if the Council would throw a little more light upon would tend to allay an uneasy feeling which exists at present amongst a great many pharmaceutical teachers and supporters of the Society throughout the country, and that is as to the attitude of the Society towards existing schools, and as to what is meant in Clause 7 by the term "kindred institution." If it is intended that all properly equipped and conducted pharmacy schools at present existing are to be recognised, very good, but in any case a school, should be licensed and registered by the Pharmaceutical Society, and should also be subject to inspection by at least two members of the Council. An ideal condition would be one school carried on in each Parliamentary division subject to inspection and report by one or two members with the help of the divisional secretary, or, failing this, or where the requirements do not demand, it might be found advisable to group two or three divisions, and so have the fitness of the school guaranteed.

Yours, &c.,

South Shields, January 14. ALEXANDER ELLIS.

Is the Prosecution a Persecution?

SIR,—It has been my custom, and I believe the custom of most chemists, to take a daily constitutional—it may be for

half-an-hour, it may be somewhat longer; but having read in last week's *C. & D.* (page 60) a report of the prosecution of an unqualified assistant in Liverpool, and the subsequent threat of more prosecutions to follow, I presume that now I must forego that small pleasure. As chemists generally are not satiated with the pleasures and joys of this world, I think the measure extremely drastic. As there is no doubt that the poorer chemists constitute the majority, I am afraid the subscriptions to the Pharmaceutical Society will show a great falling-off. Surely the Society could bring their energies to bear in other directions, in order to assist us in our daily struggle for a miserable existence.

Yours truly,
FRESH AIR. (45/20.)

Legal Queries.

Before sending in a query for reply in this section see if the subject is not dealt with in "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1900, pages 212-226, and pages 259-262.

45/37. *Nemo*.—The words "distilled from pure malt-vinegar" do not of themselves constitute a warranty, but you may be able to bring collateral evidence to show that when the vinegar was sold to you it was clearly understood that it was as labelled. See notes on cases in *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, 1901, page 517.

41/60. *Evicted* took possession of a shop and house on a yearly tenancy, subject to six months' notice on either side. The house was taken on July 6, 1890; the rent was paid quarterly. He is now asked by the legal representatives of the landlord to quit the premises six months after June 24 next. "Evicted" asks us what course he should take. [If the statements contained in our correspondent's communication are correct, his landlord cannot recover possession until July 6, 1902. We think, however, it would be only courteous and proper for our correspondent to write to his landlord and tell him that he does not recognise the notice as being valid, and that he does not intend to give up possession.]

42/86. *H. H.* writes: A buyer sends cash with order requesting that goods be sent to a wholesale drug-house for enclosure; the goods are lost; wholesale house have some recollection of receiving the parcel, but they gave no signature for its receipt. This is their custom, and they now state it releases them from any responsibility. Who is to bear the loss? [In England delivery of goods to the buyer's agent (in this case the wholesale house) is equivalent to delivery to the buyer. Wholesale houses as a rule accept parcels for enclosure at the owner's risk. The buyer must, of course, pay the seller, and recover, if he can, from the wholesale house who accepted the parcel for enclosure.]

Information Supplied.

NOTE.—Subjoined are replies to queries printed in previous issues as indicated by the numbers. It is requested that any writing to the firms named will mention "The Chemist and Druggist" as the source of their information.

PULV. ZINCI SULPHCARB. Co. is made by Hooper & Co., Grosvenor Street, London, W. (251/48.)

BOLIVIAN COCA-WINE:—Mr. D. T. Evans, chemist, Margate (27/37.)

CALESCO COPIER:—Messrs. Douglas & Douglas, 13 Union Street, Glasgow. (25/27.)

GELATINE PILL-COATING MACHINES:—Messrs. Hatrick & Co., 82 Turnmill Street, London, E.C. (26/3)

CRACROFT'S TOOTH-PASTE:—Messrs. John Pepper & Co., 145 Bermondsey Street, S.E. (1/1)

CAILLER'S SWISS MILK-CHOCOLATE:—Messrs. Ellis & Co., 11 Bow Lane, E.C. (29/70.)

BIRTH.—On December 3, 1900, at 44 Harrington Road, Queen's Gate, S.W., the wife of Walter H. Bate, of a son.

Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

41/42. What is ung. Desrea?

47/18. Manufacturers or agents for sale of fir-tree oil.

46/44. The formula for Guild's Green-mountain asthma-cure.

45/74. Address in Messina of Pasquale's Red Anchor brand oil of lemon.

238/10. Address wanted of London Chemical Company makers of Cutine cream for the skin.

Pharmaceutical Society of Trinidad.

THE Secretary's report for 1900 states that five new members joined during the year, but the Society lost by death a very staunch supporter in the late President, Mr. Alexander Smith Laing. He had filled the chair with credit for the year 1899, and was re-elected in December of that year, but before the Society met again he had passed away after a very short illness. Mr. A. E. Boland was then elected President, and has performed his onerous duties in a most exemplary manner.

During the year there have been eight papers read before the Society: one by Mr. George Menzies on "The Preparation of Syr. Ferri Iodid."; two by the Secretary (Mr. Lewis Inniss) on "The Medicinal Leech and Musk"; one by the President upon "Mustard"; two by Mr. Diefenthaler upon "The Haloid Elements"; one by Mr. Hart, F.L.S., upon "Botany in Relation to the Arts and Sciences"; and one by Mr. Leslie upon "The Medicinal Trees of the Tropics." The two last gentlemen are honorary members of the Society. Early in the year the attention of the Society was called to an article in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* by Dr. Ince, late of Trinidad, on "Pharmacy in Trinidad," which contained some inaccuracies which might tend to depreciate the pharmacies of Trinidad in the eyes of strangers, and the Secretary was authorised to write to that Journal pointing out the inaccuracies; the consequence being that the doctor in a subsequent number admitted his error. A showcase for samples of Native drugs has been procured, and members are invited to send in specimens.

Two complaints by country members of violations of the Medical Ordinance to the detriment of the rights of druggists, were sent in to the Society and by it forwarded to the Medical Council, which has taken steps in the matters. Mr. J. E. Boland, of Arima, suggested that the Society should get out a Druggists' Almanack to take the place of the American almanacks which are yearly sent out in Trinidad in the interests of various patent medicines. The idea was enthusiastically taken up by the Society, and an almanack has been prepared which reflects credit upon the Society, and will tend greatly to bring to the notice of the public local preparations advertised therein.

In the last examination of the Medical Board for Assistant and Licensed Druggists, several things were done which some members consider objectionable, and the matter is to be discussed at the annual meeting. The financial statement shows a balance to the good.

We have received a copy of the almanack referred to in the above report. It is well got up, considering that it is entirely produced in the colonies, and contains, besides the customary information, many useful local notes and time-tables, which should impel customers to ask for the almanack again.

THE *Daily Mail*, discussing in its usual manner the experiments being carried on by the Post Office Telegraph officials with the object of discovering whether platinum would form a substitute for copper in telegraph and telephone wires, informs that section of the confiding public who take their wisdom from it that platinum costs 130*l.* a ton. We imagine that there are few dealers who would care to sell platinum under 4*l.* an oz.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: January 17.

THE chief event since our last report has been a reduction of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per oz. in the official price of quinine, otherwise there has been no move of first-class importance, though business in many directions has certainly improved. Both citric and tartaric acids are firmly held, and prices, if anything, tend upwards. Potassium cyanide is offering at lower rates owing to the absence of orders from South Africa, stock; having meanwhile accumulated in makers' hands. Opium is still a dragging market, but prices are practically unchanged. Crude camphor has been advanced by the monopoly, but refined is unchanged. The following are the principal changes of the week, including those recorded at the drug-auctions:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Asafetida	Ammonia	Copaiba	Balsam tolu
Camphor	sulphate	Dragon's blood	Cardamoms
(crude)		(fine)	Elemi
Colocynth		Ginger	Galls
Wax (Jam.)		Menthol	Hypophosphites
		Senega	Ipecac. (Cart.)
		Senna	Pot cyanide
			Quinine
			Sarsa. (Jam.)

Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c., have arrived at the ports of London, Liverpool, Southampton, Hull, &c., from January 10 to January 16 (both inclusive):—Aloes (Cape), 9; annatto-seed (Ceylon), 21; argols (Span.), 410; borax, 52; buchu, 30; camphor (@ Kobe), 900 cs.; cardamoms, 50; caraway-seed, 100; cassia fistula, 39; castor oil, (Fr.) 84, (Ital.) 50; chillies (Jap.), 202; cinchona, (Ceylon) 321, (E.I.) 526; citronella oil, 69; coca-leaves (Ceylon), 5; cocoa-butter, 28; cod-liver oil, 174; colocynth, 14; cream of tartar, 65; dragons'-blood, 9; drugs, (@ Hamburg) 7, (@ Marseilles) 65, (@ Trieste) 41, (@ Palermo), 125; ergot (Span.), 6; eucalyptus leaves, 24 bls.; flowers, dried (@ Havre), 35; galls (@ Smyrna), 100; gentian, 26; gum arabic, (@ Trieste) 13, (@ Alexandria) 155; gum sandarac, 5; gum, unenumerated, 15; honey, (Chil.) 28; iodine, 20; lime-juice, 4; liquorice, (@ Batoum) 624; liquorice-juice (@ Italy), 40 cs.; nux vomica, 471; oils, essential, (@ Sicily) 160, (@ Singapore), 37 cs.; opium (@ Salonica) 26, (@ Smyrna) 67; quillaia, 216; saffron, 4; senna (Tiny.), 104; sulphur, 500 tons, 450 bags; taraminds (E.I.) 50; vanilla, 10; wax, bees' (Mor.), 16; (Chil.), 4; (Span.), 17; (E.I.), 9; wax (Japanese), 25.

Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market centres other than London.]

Generally speaking there is a very fair inquiry and demand in the market for all principal products, and business too in miscellaneous products is apparently improving. Some buyers are still holding off in the hope of lower prices ruling, but it seems very unlikely that their hopes will be realised, as practically all values are firm and very steadily maintained.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—Bleaching-powder, caustic soda, and ammonia alkali are all in active demand, and keep very firm. Yellow prussiate of potash still weak and declining. Chlorates keep quiet and easy.

RECOVERED SULPHUR moving well and is steady, at 47. 17s. 6d. to 57. 2s. 6d. per ton in 2-cwt. bags, free on rails.

SOUTH DURHAM SALT easier but so far unchanged, at 11s. 3d. per ton, f.o.b. Tees.

LINSEED AND COTTONSEED CAKES are in active and regular demand, and prices are firm and maintained at about the same as last mentioned. Linseed cakes, 95-per-cent. pure, 87. 15s. to 87. 17s. 6d. per ton. Oilcakes, 77. 12s. 6d. to 77. 17s. 6d. per ton. Cotton cakes, best makes, 57. 2s. 6d. to 57. 7s. 6d. per ton; and seconds, 47. 17s. 6d. to 57. 7s. 6d. per ton.

SATIN WHITE continues to move well, and is firm at 57. to 57. 10s. per ton, free on rails, in usual casks.

ZINC SALTS in fair request and steady. Sulphate crystals, 67. 17s. 6d. to 77. 2s. 6d. per ton; chloride of zinc solution, 100° Tw., 67. 17s. 6d. to 77. 2s. 6d. per ton; chloride of zinc, cake pure, 11d. to 1s. 1d. per lb.

PHOSPHORUS.—Steady. Wedges, 2s., and sticks, 2s. 1d. per lb. Amorphous, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 7d. per lb.

SALTPETRE.—Steady. British refined, barrels, 21s. per cwt., and kegs, 22s. per cwt. German barrels and kegs, 19s. 6d. and 20s. 6d. per cwt. respectively.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA is firm, and higher values are now ruling. Forward business is not very heavy. Beckton terms, 117. 2s. 6d.; London, 117. 2s. 6d.; Hull, 107. 18s. 9d. to 117. 1s. 3d.; Leith, 117. 2s. 6d. to 117. 5s. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 762 tons.

GREEN COPPERAS, with continued steady demand, is somewhat scarce. Prices are firm and well maintained. Best Lancashire makes, 42s. to 44s. per ton, f.o.b., Liverpool. Welsh, 13s. to 14s. per ton in bulk free on rails.

MAGNESIUM SALTS moving steadily at late rates. Sulphate, 65s. to 67s. 6d. per ton in bags free on rails. Chloride of magnesium, 57s. 6d. to 60s. per ton. Carbonate of magnesia, 39s. to 41s. per cwt. Calcined magnesia, 10d. to 1s. per lb.

Liverpool Drug Market.

Liverpool, January 16.

CASTOR OIL.—The advance in this article still continues, and Calcutta good seconds are held for $3\frac{1}{8}d.$ to $4d.$ per lb. on the spot, according to quantity, and for arrival an advance of $\frac{1}{8}d.$ to $\frac{3}{8}d.$ has been established in most positions. Good seconds Calcutta have been selling at $3\frac{1}{8}d.$ to $3\frac{3}{8}d.$ First pressure French has also improved in position, and for the small remaining stocks $3\frac{3}{8}d.$ to $4d.$ is asked. First pressure English is held for about the same price.

HONEY.—Sixty-two barrels Peruvian Pile X. have changed hands during the week, but although colour good, a large number of the kegs were fermented. Pile X. Chilean is still held for 35s. per cwt.; Pile I., 28s. to 29s.; Pile II., 25s. 6d.; Pile III., 24s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt.; but there have been no transactions in the lower piles to record.

COPAIBA.—A recent arrival by the s.s. *Bourbon* offered at auction, but importers' limits were not reached. The parcel was afterwards sold at 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.

ACACIA.—One ton of good partly soft Soudan sorts sold at 65s. per cwt. The parcel was recently held for much more money.

JAPAN WAX.—Fine quality is held firmly, at 32s. 6d. per cwt.

QUILLAIA BARK.—Considerable movement is taking place in this article at 137. 15s. to 147. per ton, 10 tons having changed hands in one line at the former price.

CANARY-SEED.—The strong position has improved, and holders now talk of 35s. 6d. per quarter for good bright Turkish. The stock on this market is now in a very limited compass.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—For the remaining stocks here importers are very firm, at 25s. to 25s. 6d. per cwt.

SPERMACEIN, CHILIAN.—The 25 cases recently arrived have found buyers, after considerable negotiation, at 1s. 2d. per lb.

FENUGREEK SEED.—Alexandrian is in fair supply, at 5s. 9d. to 6s. per cwt.; and Mogador at 6s. to 6s. 6d.

TURPS.—After receding to 28s. 3d., has again gone back to 29s per cwt.

WAX, BEES', is quiet but steady, at unchanged rates.

WAX, CARNAUBA.—There is no improvement to report, and business has been confined to a small parcel of grey Maranham at 52s. per cwt.

CASTOR-SEED is dearer, about 50 tons Brazilian having been disposed of at 12s. $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ for January-February delivery, and about 550 bags Maranham at 13s. 3d. to 13s. $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per cwt., on the spot.

German Drug Market.

Hamburg, January 15.

Business in general is quiet here. The weather is still frosty and the navigation is very much hindered thereby.

CITRIC ACID is quiet but steady. A spot parcel has been sold at 276m., while delivery during 1901 has been done at 290m. per 100 kilos.

CARNAUBA WAX of good grey quality is held by the importers at 107½m.; second-hand, 110m. per 100 kilos.

COCAINE has been reduced by the factories 100m. per kilo; to-day's price is 600m. per kilo.

CAMPOR, REFINED, shows very little business, spot quotes second-hand 450m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT OF RYE is firm, but a spot parcel sold to-day at 487½m. per 100 kilos.

GALANGAL.—A parcel afloat could be bought to-day at 21m. per cwt.

STAR-ANISE-SEED is unchanged, 140m. to 137½m. being paid for spot. A Japanese firm has had a cable reporting a rise to 65m. for future delivery.

ANISEED, RUSSIAN, in fair demand, at 34m. to 33m. as in quantity.

AGAR AGAR.—On the spot about 390m. is asked, while for future shipment 370m. is quoted; there was even an offer at 310m. for February-June shipment in the market, but it was based upon a very inferior quality.

CONDURANGO BARK has rapidly fallen in consequence of two public sales here, resulting in prices from 135m. down to 110m., while the article was quoted still a week ago 250m.

CEVADILLA-SEED is flat, and bids of 68m. and even lower are solicited.

WORMSEED is slow of sale in spite of the last reduction in prices; 50m. per 100 kilos. is quoted for good brown, while prime green is 65m.

MENTHOL is easier owing to arrivals in London, and on the spot business has been done at 26½m. per kilo.

SANTONIN is quoted 32½m. to 31m. as in quantity.

QUILLAYA-BARK firmer, at 27½m. per 100 kilos.

CASTOR OIL is firm and advancing; first-pressing in barrels, spot, is quoted 68m., and February 65m. per 100 kilos.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—HGH peppermint is offering a little cheaper again from New York—viz., 4.55m. per lb.; Japanese is 7.70m. per kilo.; star-anise and cassia oil are both dull and neglected.

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, January 17, 9 50 A.M.:—Owing to the recent frost the opium-market is hardening considerably. Sellers are already refusing 9s. 5d. per lb. for druggists'.

NEW YORK, January 17, 3 5 P.M.:—The general tone of the market is dull. Domestic quinine is lower, 27c. per oz. being the latest quotation. Opium has also declined to \$3.40 per lb., and senega is lower, at 37c. per lb. Golden-seal is weak in tone, 56c. per lb. being now asked. Rio ipecacuanha is also dull, at \$2.60 per lb. Cinchonidine has declined to 27c. per oz.

HAMBURG, January 17, 1 44 P.M.:—Refined camphor in second hands is selling on this market at 4 50m. per 100 kilos. Ergot is getting scarce, and 495m. per 100 kilos. is now wanted. The latest price for condurango is 105m. per 100 kilos., and castor oil is firmer in tone.

London Markets.

ACETANILIDE.—Exceeding slow of sale, with sellers at from 8½d. per lb. for contract quantities.

ACID, CITRIC, is a firm market, at from 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 3¼d. for English crystals.

ACID, TARTARIC.—There is a good tone about the market, 11¾d. to 1s. 0½d. being quoted for foreign according to delivery. English is steady at 1s. 0½d.

ARROWROOT.—The St. Vincent offered at auction on Wednesday was bought in at 2¼d. per lb.

CAMPOR.—German refined has been sold on the Hamburg market at 2s. 1d. per lb., c.i.f., for January delivery, and for February to April delivery, 2s. 2d., c.i.f., is quoted in second-hands. Crude is reported to have been in better demand in Hamburg. The monopoly price for Formosa has been advanced to 183s. 6d., c.i.f.

CINCHONA.—There was a steady demand for the small supply offered in auction on Tuesday, and the greater proportion sold at an average unit of 1¾d. to 1¾d., or about equal to the last London sale, and 5 per cent. advance on the Dutch auctions last week. The shipments from Java for the first half of the month were 609,000 Amst. lbs., against 216,000 Amst. lbs. last year.

The following table shows the quantities offered and sold:—

	Packages offered.	Packages sold.
East Indian cinchona ...	549	437
South American cinchona ...	550	550
Ceylon cinchona ...	285	100
Java cinchona ...	256	63
	1,640	1,150

The following were the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	Lbs.
Messrs. Howards & Sons ...	83,414
American and Italian factories ...	43,534
Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories ...	22,530
Imperial quinine factory ...	21,078
Brunswick factory ...	16,266
Mannheim and Amsterdam factories ...	11,144
Paris factory ...	890
Druggists, &c. ...	28,676

Total quantity sold ... 227,582

Bought in or withdrawn ... 84,296

Total quantity offered ... 311,878

The prices paid for sound bark were as follows:—

JAVA.—Ledgeriana, original stem, 5½d. to 8¾d.; branch, 3d. to 6d.; root, 3¼d. Original red stem, 4¼d., and branch, 5¾d. per lb.

CEYLON.—Crown, chips and shavings, 6¼d.; broken quill and chips, 3¼d. Red chips and shavings, 3¾d. to 5½d. Ledgeriana chips, 3¾d.; and chips and shavings, 2d.

SOUTH AMERICAN.—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya, fair to good quill, 5½d. to 7¾d.; broken quill, 7d. to 8¼d.; fair flat cultivated Calisaya, 11¼d. per lb.

EAST INDIAN.—Crown, chips, 7¼d.; chips and shavings, 3¼d. to 7¼d.; broken quill and chips, 4¼d. to 5½d.; chips renewed, 3d. to 9½d.; stem and chips, 3¾d. to 5¼d. Ledgeriana, chips, 8d. to 1s.; chips and shavings, 1¾d.; stem and chips, 2¾d. per lb.

GUM ARABIC.—In so-called Persian insoluble gum a fair business has been done at from 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per cwt. for "sorts," and 18s. 6d. for small pale. Fine picked has been in good demand at from 23s. to 25s., according to quality.

GUM THUS is quoted by importers at 12s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f.

HENBANE.—For German leaves, which are still scarce, from 55s. to 60s. per cwt., c.i.f., is quoted, from Hamburg. South Russian, of new crop, can be had at 35s., c.i.f.

HYPOPHOSPHITES have been reduced to 3s. per lb. for cwt. quantities of lime, soda and potash salts, the iron and manganese salts being 2s. per lb. more.

OIL, COD LIVER.—Our Bergen correspondent writes on January 11 that the market is unchanged. Buyers are now awaiting the first reports of the new fishery. The cod may be expected to be of good and fat quality this year. The exports of non-congealing cod-liver oil amount to 221½ barrels, against 2 barrels last year at the same date. On the London market new oil is quoted 80s. per barrel, c.i.f., but this figure is quite nominal.

OPIUM.—The London market is unchanged, and there is very little business to report. Good to fine Smyrna druggists' is quoted 9s. 9d. to 10s. 6d.; and seconds 9s. 3d. to 9s. 6d.; good to fine soft shipping is 12s. to 15s.; and seconds, 9s. 6d. to 11s. per lb.; fine Persian, 14s. to 14s. 6d., for spot or arrival.

SMYRNA, January 4.—No business has been done on this market owing to the holidays. Prices, however, are still maintained, and there is no pressure to sell. News still comes in from the interior that the sowings are much below the average, and a long spell of fine, mild weather is now required throughout January and February and a fair wet spring to enable the farmers to make up the deficit of the sowings. The arrivals of opium in Smyrna since June last amount to 3,616 cases, against 2,358 cases at the same period of last year.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 4.—The market here is very quiet, and there are no sales to report. The weather has taken a wintry turn. No reports are yet to hand from the interior.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 11.—There has been nothing doing the past week. Smyrna is weaker, and holders here maintain last prices.

POTASH CYANIDE is about 1d. per lb. lower, for reasons stated in the paragraph below. Five-cwt. lots are quoted 1s. 4d. per lb. In contract quantities for mining purposes there are sellers at from 10½d. to 1s.

POTASH PRUSSATE.—The recent reduction in this article is attributed to the long-continued absence of orders from South Africa for cyanide, makers of which had quite anticipated unloading some of their stocks. Beckton make is still quoted at 6d., but in second-hands there are sellers at a shade less.

QUININE.—A reduction of 1½d. per oz. in the official quotation was announced on January 12, makers of German

sulphate now quoting 1s. 1½d. per oz. for 1,000-oz. lots in tins of 100 oz. Messrs. Howards & Sons now quote 1s. 3d. in bulk and 1s. 5d. in vials, either prices for not less than 1,000 oz. Whiffen's prices have also been reduced to 1s. 2d. for either bleached or unbleached. Salts of quinine have also followed the reduction. The decline of 10 per cent. in the unit at the Amsterdam bark-sale is responsible for the alteration in prices. The second-hand market became easier on the news of the official reduction, the week opening with sellers at 1s. 0½d. spot and buyers at 1s., a small business being done at 1s. 0½d. for May. The result of the London bark-sale on Tuesday, however, gave a firmer tone to the market, although little business has been done, 1s. 0½d. having been paid for spot and March delivery. There are said to be large orders on this market for U.S. account, which may have the effect of driving prices up.

SENEGA.—The tendency is still downwards, Western now being obtainable at 1s. 9d. per lb, spot.

SERPENTARY is quoted 1s. 8d. per lb., c.i.f.

SPICES have been quiet during the past week, and very little business has been done. The public sales on Wednesday were small, but more than equal to the demand. Cochin *Ginger* sold at 29s. to 30s. per cwt. for small rough, washed being bought in at 34s. and small cut at 41s. per cwt. No Jamaica offered. Bengal sells privately at 33s. per cwt. Zanzibar *Cloves* sold at 4½d. per lb. for fair and 4¼d. for dark. The speculative market is firm with a moderate business passing, March-May at 4½d., and June-August at 4¾d. Good picked Penang were bought in at 9½d. per lb.; dark unpicker sold at 4½d. to 4¾d. per lb. *Pimento* quiet; a few lots sold at 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb. for ordinary to fair. Fine Egyptian *Capsicums* were bought in at 65s. per cwt. *Cinnamon-chips* were held for 3½d. per lb. *Cassia-lignea* sold at 44s. to 44s. 6d. per cwt. for slightly false packed. *Pepper* is a shade easier, Singapore black having been sold at 6½d. per lb. for March-May shipment; Tellicherry sold at 6¼d. per lb. for ordinary; Alleppy was bought in at 6¼d., good Ceylon selling at 6¼d. per lb. Long pepper was bought in at 57s. per cwt. Singapore white was bought in at 9¼d. to 9½d. per lb. for fair and at 9¾d. for good. Penang was bought in at 8½d. to 8¾d. per lb.

TRAGACANTH.—Very full prices have been paid for fine gum, which is still scarce and wanted.

London Drug-auctions.

After an interval of six weeks the auctions were resumed to-day, when voluminous supplies of "new and old" goods were brought forward, of which only a small proportion found buyers publicly. Notwithstanding the desire of both brokers and buyers to get through the business quickly, the sales dragged on until 4.45 p.m. The feature of the auctions was the high prices paid for asafoetida, in some instances 40s. above valuations. Rio ipecac. was unchanged; Cartagena a little easier, as was also Tinnevely senna. Aloes in slow demand, but good prices were paid for Zanzibar hepatic, and Socotrine. Sumatra benzoin sold well; but for cardamoms there was little demand, except at lower prices. Fine dragon's-blood easier, and elemi much cheaper. Large quantities of Jamaica sarsaparilla brought prices down a trifle. Jamaica wax was considerably dearer. The following table shows the goods offered and sold publicly:—

Offered Sold		Offered Sold	
Aconite (Jap.)	10 ... 0	Benzoin—	
Albumen	16 ... 0	Palembang	29½ ... 0
Almonds, bitter	8 ... 0	Siam	25 ... 0
Aloes—		Sumatra	167 ... 63
Curacao (boxes)	235 ... 0	Buchu	35 ... 6
Socotrine	50 ... 20	Calumba	373 ... 41
Zanzibar	101 ... 3	Camphor (crude)	23 ... 0
Ambergris	11 ... 3	Candle nuts	1 ... 0
Ammoniacum	13 ... 0	Cannabis indica	49 ... 9
Anise	183 ... 15	Cantharides	2 ... 0
Annatto-seed	111 ... 0	Caraway-seed	14 ... 0
Antimony	99 ... 0	Cardamoms	457 ... 132
Araroba	22 ... 0	Cassia sagrada	77 ... 6
Areca-nuts	84 ... 0	Castor-seed	10 ... 0
Asafoetida	727 ... 161	Chillies	30 ... 0
Asphaltum	30 ... 0	Chiretta	48 ... 0
Bael-fruit	10 ... 10	Cinchona	33 ... 0
Balsam, Canada	7 ... 0	Civet	3 ... 1
copaiba	28 ... 11	Coca-leaves	33 ... 0
Peru	2 ... 0	Cocculus indicus	263 ... 0
Tolu	69 ... 51	Colocynth	52 ... 6
Belladonna-root	10 ... 10	Croton-seed	85 ... 8

Offered Sold		Offered Sold	
Cubebs	93 ... 24	Oil—	
Cumiu-seed	1 ... 0	pitchouli	1 ... 0
Cus Cus	14 ... 0	peppermint	21 ... 0
Cuttle-fish	45 ... 20	pimento	7 ... 0
Dandelion	24 ... 0	rose	10 ... 0
Dragon's-blood	65 ... 6	wintergreen	3 ... 0
Elaterium	1 ... 0	Opium	37 ... 1
Elemi	17 ... 15	Orange peel	39 ... 8
Ergot	16 ... 1	Orris	99 ... 21
Galangal	48 ... 0	Otto of rose	5 ... 0
Galbanum	11 ... 0	Patchouli-leaves	31 ... 0
Galls	578 ... 10	Pistachio	2 ... 0
Gamboge	14 ... 2	Quinine salts ... 300 oz.	0 ... 0
Guaiacum	4 ... 2	Rhatany	25 ... 0
Guarana	2 ... 0	Rhubarb	248 ... 24
Gum acacia	194 ... 0	Saffron	11 ... 0
aceroides	78 ... 0	Sandalwood	37 ... 0
sandarac	12 ... 0	Sarsaparilla	159 ... 51
Honey	316 ... 39	Sassafras	5½ tons ... 0
Ignatius' bean	5 ... 0	Scammonium	12 ... 0
Ipecacuanha—		Scammony-root	20 ... 0
(Cartagena)	102 ... 4	Senna—	
(Rio)	45 ... 43	Alexandrian	93 ... 0
Jalap	31 ... 0	Tinnevely	820 ... 788
Kamala	3 ... 3	Senega	9 ... 0
Kino	18 ... 1	Sesame	10 ... 0
Kola	12 ... 1	Smilax	1 ... 0
Lime-juice	2 ... 0	Soap, Castille	10 ... 0
Liquorice-juice	24 ... 0	Squills	34 ... 0
" root	93 ... 0	Storax	15 ... 0
Manna	1 ... 1	Strophanthus	5 ... 0
Mastic	9 ... 2	Tamarinds	128 ... 0
Matico	13 ... 0	Thymol	3 ... 2
Morphine	300 oz. ... 0	Tragacanth	48 ... 26
Musk	14 ... 0	Touka-beans	15 ... 1
Myrrh	34 ... 10	Turmeric	30 ... 30
Nutmeg-paste	2 ... 0	Turtle, dried	3 ... 0
Nux vomica	182 ... 100	Vanilla	1 ... 0
Oil, anise star	15 ... 0	Wax (bees')—	
bay	1 ... 1	Australian	12 ... 0
bergamot	4 ... 4	Carnauba	226 ... 0
cassia	11 ... 0	Cuban	1 ... 1
cinnamon	12 ... 0	East Indian	137 ... 9
citronella	4 ... 0	Italian	24 ... 0
eucalyptus	44 ... 0	Jamaica	16 ... 16
lemon	7 ... 0	Madagascar	105 ... 47
lime	15 ... 5	Spaush	20 ... 0
nutmeg	28 ... 13	Zanzibar	394 ... 69
orange	1 ... 1	Wax (Japan)	79 ... 0

ALOES.—Three cases of good hard Zanzibar hepatic in skins sold at 70s. to 75s. per cwt. Of Zanzibar in tins 79 cases were offered and bought in at 35s. for pasty brown to dark, and 25s. for dark watery stuff, a bid of 22s. 6d. being refused for the latter. Fifteen cases of Socotrine in kegs realised 75s., which makes no change. No Curaçao sold.

ANISE.—Fifteen bags of Russian sold at 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d. "without reserve."

ASAFOETIDA.—A newly-imported parcel of 468 packages from the Persian Gulf was offered to-day. This parcel represented the two hundred and thirty odd packages we have already advised, the difference being accounted for by the fact that many of the boxes were bound together in two's. The consignment, on the whole, represented much better quality than has been seen on the market for some months past, although it was by no means high-class throughout, some of it being more or less "faked." In most instances the prices paid were considerably above valuations. The following were some of the prices paid:—Fair to good pinky almondy block, 5d. to 6d. 5s.; heavier ditto, and more or less mixed gum, 80s. to 90s.; for medium parcels 70s. to 77s. 6d. was paid.

BAEL FRUIT in slices realised 1½d. per lb.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Pale cloudy Cartagena sold at 1s. 4d., and thick ditto at 1s. 3d. Ten cases of good bright Para description (B.P. quality) was bought in at 1s. 10d. per lb., and 6 tins of thin pale to dark sold at 1s. 5d.

BALSAM TOLU.—A considerable supply was offered, and partly sold at lower rates. Slightly drossy quality in large tins sold cheaply at 1s. per lb., and another parcel of 30 cases, also in large tins, sold at 1s. 2d. Two other parcels of good quality in small tins were held for 1s. 6d.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—Ten bales of English sold readily at 35s. per cwt.

BENZOIN.—There was a good demand to-day for Sumatra at unchanged to full-up rates. The following prices ruled :—Sumatra, good almonded seconds of old fracture, 9*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; good fair ditto, well packed with small almonds, 8*l.* to 8*l.* 5*s.* to 8*l.* 10*s.*; and ordinary to fair reddish seconds, poorly packed, 6*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.* 15*s.*, subject. No Siam gum was disposed of, good small to medium pale loose almonds being limited at 15*l.* 10*s.*; and for pea and bean size 11*l.* was refused, 12*l.* being wanted. Palembang was also all bought in at from 45*s.* to 60*s.* for fair to good seconds; and 15*s.* to 32*s.* 6*d.* for low block. Privately sales of ordinary seconds have been made at 6*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* per cwt.

BUCHU.—Three shipments of new crop offered. For the first parcel of fair to good greenish round, the highest bid was 10½*d.* and the limit 1*s.* Another lot of 7 bales good green round sold at 1*s.* per lb.

CANNABIS INDICA.—Fair greenish tops were held for 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb., and sea-damaged sold at 1*s.* 5*d.*

CARDAMOMS.—There was a poor demand in auction, and in most instances lower prices were accepted. The following prices ruled :—Ceylon-Mysore, fine bold pale (well bleached), 3*s.* 8*d.*; medium to bold pale, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; medium brownish, 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.*; medium long lean, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 1*s.* 11*d.*; small pale, 1*s.* 5*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*; brown and split, 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*; very small pale, 1*s.* 2*d.*; wild native longs, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; seeds, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*. No Ceylon-Malabar sold.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The London market is getting bare of stock, and further sales have been made at 25*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., spot. For a parcel now afloat, per sailer to Liverpool, 23*s.* per cwt., c. i. f., is quoted. In auction to-day 6 bags of sweepings sold at 21*s.* 6*d.*

CHIRETTA.—The limit for good quality was 3½*d.* per lb.

CIVET.—Two horns of commercial quality were bought in at 7*s.* 6*d.* per oz.; one had been sold privately. The exports of civet from Zaila (Somali Coast Protectorate) from 1897-1900 were as follows :—

	1897-98	1898-99	1899-1900
Lbs. ...	206	203	—
Value (Rs.) ...	55,213	37,679	—

COCA-LEAVES.—For Huanoco leaves a bid of 1*s.* is to be submitted; good green broken Truxillo were held for 1*s.* 4*d.* Ceylon were bought in at 1*s.* 6*d.*

COLOCYNTH.—Small to medium pale Turkey apple realised 1*s.* 5*d.* per lb., and very dark broken 1*s.* 3*d.*

CROTON-SEED.—Of 5 parcels offered 1 only of 8 bags, dark mixed, sold at 19*s.* per cwt., which marks a decline.

CUBEBS.—The limit for fair but slightly stalky berries was 47*s.* Sea-damaged sold at 30*s.* for first class and 17*s.* 6*d.* for third class. A parcel of 17 bags fair but stalky sold at 25*s.* per cwt.

CUS-CUS.—For a parcel from Cochin, free from sand, 40*s.* per cwt. was wanted.

CUTTLE-FISH BONE.—Fair white from Bombay realised 3½*d.* per lb., and another parcel of 8 mats brought 2¼*d.* subject.

DRAGON'S BLOOD.—A parcel of 8 cases of coarse and damp broken reed of poor colour, offered "without reserve," but only 1 case sold at 6*l.* 5*s.* per cwt. Two small boxes of fine bright reboiled lump sold without reserve at from 12*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.*, which marks a slight decline, and medium block at 11*l.*

ELEMI.—The scarcity has been relieved by 12 cases of direct import; good white gum sold at 6*l.*, and not quite so good at 85*s.* to 87*s.* 6*d.*, and dark at 52*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., subject. Another lot of 4 cases of old import but good quality were offered without reserve, and sold at 77*s.* 6*d.* to 87*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

ERGOT.—A small sale of Spanish was made at 2*s.* 4*d.* per lb.

GALLS.—Privately small sales of Persian blue have been made at from 55*s.* to 60*s.* per cwt., spot, which is again lower. Ten bags of blue Persian sea-damaged sold at 50*s.* per cwt. in auction.

GAMBOGE.—No business in auction. Rough unsorted Siam pipe, mostly good orange fracture, was bought in at 9*l.* 10*s.* per cwt.

GUAIACUM sold at unchanged rates, fair glassy resin realising 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb.

GUARANA.—Fair sausage was held for 1*s.* 7*d.* per lb.

HONEY was in less demand to-day. Jamaica, fair brownish set, sold at from 24*s.* to 25*s.* 6*d.*, and 27*s.* for good syrupy, and 30*s.* for good set white.

IPECACUANHA.—Rio sold at practically unchanged rates—viz., 10*s.* to 10*s.* 3*d.* for the best lots, and from 9*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 2*d.* for water-damaged. Cartagena was in large supply, and sale being pressed, 6*s.* 4*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per lb. was got for it.

KAMALA.—Fair quality "without reserve" sold at 3*d.* per lb.

KOLA.—A bag of West Indian natural sold at 3¾*d.* per lb.

MANNA.—A tin of "sorts" sold "without reserve" at 6*d.* per lb.

MORPHINE.—A lot of 300 oz. Smith's hydrochloride was taken out at 4*s.* 9*d.* per oz., a bid of 4*s.* 6*d.* being refused.

MYRRH.—The scarcity has been relieved by the arrival of a parcel of 21 packages from Trieste, 10 bales of which consisted of good bright natural sorts, which sold at 80*s.* The remainder (11 casks), dark native picked, were bought in at 65*s.*, a bid of 60*s.* being refused.

OIL, BERGAMOT.—Four coppers sold "without reserve" at 4*s.* 9*d.* per lb. net.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—For oil containing 60 per cent. to 65 per cent. cineol 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb. was wanted. Platypus brand was held for 2*s.* 2*d.*

OIL, NUTMEG.—For 13 cases distilled in Penang, offered "without reserve," 1½*d.* per oz. was paid.

ORRIS.—Slow of sale in auction, when a few bales of bold Verona root sold at 19*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. "without reserve." Fine bold Florentine was bought in at 50*s.* Twelve serons of Mogador were bought in at 22*s.*

RHATANY.—The limit for a parcel of Savanilla-root was 3½*d.* per lb.

RHUBARB.—The bulk of the supply catalogued to-day had previously been offered, and there was little disposition, as usual, to do business publicly. Ten cases of dull-coated High-dried, mixed sizes, part wormy, but of fair fracture, sold without reserve, at 7¼*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb. Shensi, round and flat rough pickings, 11*d.*; Shensi, fine medium and small round trimming-root, three-quarters pinky and one-quarter grey fracture, 2*s.* 4*d.* A few cases of common wormy Canton sold at from 9¼*d.* to 9¾*d.* down to 4¾*d.* for very low wormy.

SARSAPARILLA.—Genuine Jamaica sarsaparilla, of which 104 bales offered to-day, went cheaply for what little was sold, damaged selling at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*, and sound at 1*s.* 3*d.* Nineteen bales of Guayaquil sold at 1*s.* 1*d.* for the sound and 1*s.* for damaged, and 4 bales of Lima-Jamaica were held for 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb. Five bales of red and grey Native Jamaica sold at 11¼*d.* for sound, and 10*d.* to 11*d.* for damaged.

SENNA.—Tinnevely sold at slightly easier rates in auction. For fine bold green (1 bale) 5*d.* was paid, and for medium to good greenish leaf 2½*d.* to 3¾*d.*, while ordinary small to fair medium ditto sold at 1*d.* to 2¼*d.*, and low stalky jungle senna at ½*d.* to ½*d.* per lb. Pods sold at 4½*d.*

THYMOL.—An unusual offering was made of three brands—viz., Heine's, Sachse's, and Schimmel's make. The first two brands were apparently bought back for their owner at 15*s.* 6*d.* per lb., subject, and a bid of 11*s.* was refused for Schimmel's make.

TONKA-BEANS.—Fair frosted Para sold at 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb.

TURMERIC.—Good bright Chinese finger sold at 23*s.* per cwt.

WAX, BEES'.—Jamaica was 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per cwt., dearer, usual quality selling at from 8*l.* to 8*l.* 5*s.*; Zanzibar, good brown, sold at 6*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Bombay, 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; Madagascar, 6*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Coconada, 5*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.*; Cuban, 6*l.* 15*s.* per cwt.

Asafetida-import Regulations in U.S.

The committee appointed by the Drug-trade Section of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation to look into the tariff-classification of asafetida and to suggest a remedy for the discrimination against the port of New York, met in the rooms of the Drug-trade Club on December 27. Mr. J. H. Stallman presided, and the meeting was well attended. The result of the discussion between the various members was that Congress be petitioned to change the tariff-schedule relating to asafetida so that it may comply with present trade conditions and requirements.

Hamburg Shipping.

During the last ten years Hamburg has made considerable progress as a port. In 1890 8,176 vessels were cleared (equal to 5,202,825 registered tons), against 13,109 vessels (equal to 8,050,000 registered tons in 1900). There are registered as belonging to Hamburg owners 337 sailing-vessels (240,420 tons), 486 steamers (748,435 tons), and 30 steamers in process of building (166,460 tons). This does not, of course, include the numerous tugs, steam-trawlers, and fishing-smacks incidental to the port.

Quicksilver in Texas.

The cinnabar or quicksilver deposits in Brewster County, Tex., are being developed on an extensive scale. Although it has been only about a year since any recognition was taken of these deposits, over 1,000 flasks of quicksilver were produced up to January 1, 1900. The production for the present year will reach several thousand flasks. This new quicksilver-district is located near the Rio Grande border, and is over fifty miles distant from the nearest railroad-point. Fuel and water are scarce, otherwise the development of the field would be much more rapid than at present.

Why Sulphonal is Dear.

The town of Homburg has for the last three years been waging war against the manufacture of sulphonal which is carried on there. The Homburgers state that the smell of the mercaptan produced infects the air and keeps visitors away. The manufacturers has studied the wishes of the inhabitants to a certain extent by not producing any sulphonal during the summer months, but the citizens wish to suppress the business altogether. Every time the matter has been brought before the authorities nothing has been proved to justify such a measure.

Australasian News.

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TRADE-MARK CASE.—The Commissioner of Trade-marks on November 8 refused to allow Messrs. J. Kitchen & Sons, and the Apollo Company (Limited), Melbourne, to register the word "Violet" as a trade-mark for soap. The solicitor for the objector produced *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY* to show that "Violet" soap had long been advertised and was known to the trade, and that even "Velvet" soap was advertised in that publication years ago. "Velvet" soap was mentioned because the applicants endeavoured to show that the similarity of the two words, "Violet" and "Velvet," justified them in trying to register the former, seeing that they have sold hundreds of tons of "Velvet" soap, and naturally desired to protect that commodity from infringement.

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING has been the subject of many experiments in Australasia, and the results are naturally of much interest to home chemists. The essentials of success appear to be avoidance of charges for salaries, rent, and storage, and the limitation of the responsibility to a small number. The instances in which success has been achieved have been managed somewhat in this way. Half-a-dozen men of good financial standing, not actively competing, arrange to buy in one lot their requirements in certain directions. In turn they take their part in buying, order the goods, have them delivered at their own place, and from there distribute them to their friends. The account is sent with the goods, and a cheque is forwarded by return. When one of the group finds that he needs certain goods, he communicates with the others, asking what they can do in the same direction, and, having learnt the maximum quantity, will bargain with the wholesale houses or other suppliers. If either of the group hears of a special cheap line, which is, perhaps, too large for him to handle, he communicates in the same way, and is very commonly authorised to purchase.

AN ACT to prevent the adulteration of wine has passed in Victoria. Prominently-branded foreign products are excluded from its operations, otherwise no wine may be sold containing ethers, essential oil of bitter almond, cherry-laurel, flavouring substances, alkaloidal substances, compounds of barium, fluorine, magnesium, strontium, bismuth, arsenic, lead, zinc, aluminium, tin, copper, boron derivatives of naphthol (abrostol, &c.), sulphuric acid, formalin or formaldehyde, salicylic acid, or other antiseptics except sulphurous acid as specially provided for glycerin, saccharin, dalcine, sucrovin, crystallose, impure starch sugar, impure spirits containing fusel oil or aldehydes, organic or mineral colouring-matters, gums, and any mixtures containing any of these substances. Substances used for refining purposes, sulphur, tartaric acid, natural products of grape-vine leaves or flowers, and pure wine spirit are exempted. Fruit-wines made from other sources than fresh grapes must bear on the label the name of the fruit or source from which it is made in letters of the same size as those used for the word "wine."

AS OTHERS SEE US.—Mr. Hickson, who has returned from a visit to England, gave the councillors of the Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania impressions of his visit. He found English pharmacy in a condition none too bright. The stores and limited companies were playing havoc with the drug-trade, and the retail chemist would soon be unknown. He was surprised at the number of candidates who had presented themselves for the examinations at Galen Place—about 350 during the month. About twenty candidates were always busy at the dispensing-counter. The examiner sat on a raised platform like an auctioneer, in a revolving chair, so that he could overlook the whole twenty candidates. The completeness of the arrangements and the facility with which the examinations were conducted were very impressive. It would do some Australian pharmacists good to look over Galen Place. The pharmacies in England were disappointing. They were full of photographic materials and all sorts of odds and ends not usually found in chemists' shops in Australia, also cheap drinks on the American principle; in fact, he would not care to go into some of them for medicine at all. Mr. Bremridge, the Registrar, took rather a gloomy view of the outlook so far as the retail chemist was concerned. Every measure introduced into Parliament by the British Society had been defeated either in the Commons or Lords.

South African News.

(From our Colonial Correspondents.)

AFFAIRS IN NATAL.—The up-country chemists in Natal have for some time past been compelled to resort to the transport of former days for the delivery of their over-sea goods from Durban. The railway is entirely in the hands of the military, and comparatively little goods is carried thereon for civilians. The distance from Durban to Pietermaritzburg by road is sixty miles, and a sixteen-team ox-wagon requires three days to negotiate that distance. The tariff charged by these transport riders is 3s. to 5s. per 100 lbs., and even then they impress one as granting a favour. The railway rate is 1s. per 100 lbs. Goods often lie four to six weeks at the coast and put the merchants to much inconvenience; and meetings, deputations, and protestations seem to have no effect on the military mind.

NATAL TREASON CASE.—Mr. Gowthorpe, the Newcastle (Natal) chemist who was arrested, with his wife, in May last year on a charge of alleged treason (*C. & D.*, June 12, page 912), was indicted recently before Sir W. Smith, President of the Court for trying rebels, on twelve different counts. One of the charges alleged that Gowthorpe had proceeded to Pretoria for the enemy during the invasion of Natal, with a pass describing him as Government chemist. Mr. Gowthorpe denied holding the position, and he was found not guilty, as it was not proved that he had ever acted in the capacity described. The President said that to dispense for, or sell medical or surgical necessities from his store to, the enemy was no crime. The accused was found guilty of regaling the Boers and rendering them minor assistance, and a nominal fine of 20l. was imposed, Mrs. Gowthorpe being discharged.

LADYBRAND BUSINESS.—We are indebted to Mr. H. E. Stevenson, of Messrs. Baiss Brothers & Stevenson, for the following extract from a letter which he has received from an English pharmacist who, before the war, was in business in the Orange River Colony, and is still there:—"Naturally, I am not doing much, but wherever there are troops there are crumbs. After putting in seven months under the Boer régime, I went to Capetown and put in fourteen weeks' holiday. Then I came here and reopened after fifty weeks' closure. Soon after occurred the attack on Jagersfontein, and now both districts are in much the same condition—trade paralysed, inhabitants forcibly removed, stern martial law, and with very little hope of immediate improvement. Still, the day will come. Under British rule this district should go ahead with Gladstonian leaps and bounds instead of 'marching through rapine to civil war.' Stores open three hours a day. Assistant has to do military duty. Over 500 male Burghers of this district are *non est*. Ceylon, &c."

NEWS FROM THE RAND.—Only chemists who have been there through the war are at present carrying on business in Johannesburg, and it is not paying them, as stocks are absolutely unobtainable and the military are now drawing supplies from their own stores. The following have been open all the time, and are still open:—Lennons', Taylor, Butters, Jolly & Co., Rohrsen, Wernikoff, Lowenstein, Ayman, Cory, Haddon, Lay, and Ingram. Messrs. Jolly & Adcocks' and Martlew's pharmacies are open, but under management, the proprietors being absent and unable to obtain permission to return. The stocks in those shops are very low, windows being practically empty except for an array of empty shelves and cases. Lennons' pharmacy however has an appearance of holding stock, as one window is filled with soaps, perfumery, and sponges, the other with mining and assay apparatus. The closed pharmacies are externally in good condition and show no sign of any damage: some are boarded up, others have no protection, simply the door locked; in some the windows are empty, in others there still remains some stock, thick with dust. Johannesburg presents a most forlorn and deserted appearance, very few civilians are seen about the streets and very few businesses are open. Strictest martial law prevails and the place is policed by armed soldiers. Food is very scarce, necessitating the greatest economy, and it appears to be difficult to get supplies through. From all accounts it will be at least another four or five months before business can be resumed to any extent, and even then considerable hardship will have to be endured. [This is information which has filtered from Johannesburg and has become slightly garbled on the way. Compare the letter from Johannesburg in the *C. & D.*, December 22, 1900, page 984.—EDITOR.]

American Notes.

INFLUENZA is raging in New York and district to an unprecedented extent, over half-a-million victims being reported in the city of New York alone. Business interests are suffering, and all business men, with the exception of chemists, are complaining of bad trade.

A NEW GLASS COMPANY.—Much surprise was expressed in New York last week when it was announced that the firm of Messrs. Whitall, Tatum & Co., manufacturers of druggists' glassware, &c., had been incorporated, and that the capital had been fixed at \$2,000. The small capitalisation appears to have exercised the minds of local financiers, who expected it to be put at \$2,000,000 at least, quite forgetting that the nominal capital of a concern is a matter of small consideration. It is the actual working capital which counts.

TABLET-MEDICINES AND DOCTORS.—It is a common system now in the States for the allopathic physician to carry around his medicines with him on his visits to patients, and to dispense the requisite drug or mixture in tablet form from his wallet before leaving. This system of dispensing on the spot has, it is said, been forced upon the allopaths by the homoeopathic practitioners, whose opposition has been keenly felt. Homoeopaths have been in the

habit of carrying their medicines and leaving them with patients without extra charge for years, hence the allopathic counterblast. The system has its disadvantages, as, for instance, when the doctor finds he has not the precise tablet he requires for a special complaint, to save himself trouble and his patient anxiety he may be tempted to prescribe the nearest possible tablet in effect to that required. The public also get to find out the name of the tablet for their ailment, and in subsequent sickness go direct to the chemist for the tablet. This, of course, is one to the chemist, but on the whole the American pharmacist gets much less legitimate dispensing, and he looks with an unfavourable eye on the tablet system of medical dispensing.

ANTI-CUTTING CAMPAIGN, N.Y.—An active canvass is being made of the chemists of New York in order to put into operation in that city what is known in the trade as the "tripartite" agreement to stop the cutting of prices on proprietary patent medicines and preparations. The committee in charge of the canvass is formed by representatives from the King's County Pharmaceutical Society, the Manhattan Pharmaceutical Society, the Greater New York Pharmaceutical Society, and the New York Retail Druggists' Association. It has been agreed by the members of the Association that if it is found that 75 per cent. of the retailers in New York favour the anti-cutting movement and accept a schedule of prices, the plan for regulating the prices of patent medicines, which is similar to that in operation in the Southern and Western States under the National Association of Registered Druggists, shall be brought into force immediately. The first four days' canvass showed that 855 retail drug-stores had been visited. Out of this number only 17 pharmacists had positively refused to join the movement or to pledge themselves not to sell below minimum prices. These cutters who have so far refused to join the majority assert that they will be able to obtain the goods notwithstanding all efforts made to prevent them. The manufacturers and distributing-houses, or jobbers, however, were never so thoroughly or harmoniously united and organised and so determined to stop cut prices for mutual protection as at the present time. A schedule of fixed minimum prices is to apply to all proprietary medicinal preparations, but excludes infant-foods and beef-extracts. These, we understand, have been excluded because they are handled more or less extensively by the grocers, and it has been thought best to confine the movement strictly to the drug-trade.

Coming Events.

Tuesday, January 22.

Royal Photographic Society, 66 Russell Square, W.C., at 8 p.m., "Imitative versus Creative," by Mr. W. E. Tindall.

Wednesday, January 23.

Western Chemists' Association, Westbourne Restaurant, Craven Road W., at 9 p.m. Smoking-concert.

Glasgow Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, at the Institute, Scott Street, Glasgow. Mr. T. Maben, F.C.S., on "Standardised Preparations."

Thursday, January 24.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, W., at 9 p.m. Musical and social evening. Mr. Herbert Cracknell in the chair.

Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society, 6 Sandon Terrace, Upper Duke Street, Liverpool, at 8.30 p.m. "Notes from the Dispensing-counter," by Mr. T. S. Wokes; "Hydrosulphate of Ammonia," by Mr. J. P. Catford.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Mason University College, Birmingham. Mr. H. W. Jones on "The Reactions of Photographic Processes"; Mr. C. P. Proctor on "The Physical Theories of Photography."

Wednesday, January 30.

Public and Poor-law Dispensers' Association, at 8 p.m. Smoking-concert at Stone's Restaurant, Broadway, Ludgate Hill (behind Straker's). Tickets, 1s. each, may be obtained from the General Secretary, Mr. G. F. Forster, 137 Nag's Head Road, Ponders End, or from members of the Council.